



SOCCER ACTION

JUGOSLOVENSKA
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Finals shoot-out

Ward wants McDowell at Juventus next season

By LAURIE SCHWAB

Will Gary McDowell join Juventus next season?

Gary Ward hopes so. "Imagine our team with McDowell in midfield, Brian Brown in defence, Fabio Incantalupo and Harry Hird back after their injuries and a friend of Brown's, who's supposed to be joining from Scotland," says Ward, the experienced striker who changed his allegiance from Makedonia to Juventus early this year.

"I was talking to McDowell, and he says he's on the move. Only trouble is, he hasn't got a maximum transfer fee in his contract and Heidelberg and Hellas also want him. He'll be expensive."

McDowell has been one of the NSL's top players since joining Footscray J.U.S.T. last year. He's so good that national coach Frank Arok hopes to include him in the national squad as soon as McDowell is eligible.

"Juventus definitely is talking about buying him, which would be great for our club," Ward said.

And Ward himself discounted rumors that he'll be going back to Makedonia.

"I signed a two-year contract with Juventus early this year, and the club's been very good to me. What's more, you couldn't hope to play alongside better guys than Brian Brown, Robbie Cullen, Joe Sweeney, Eddie Campbell and the others," Ward said.

"There was talk early this year that Makedonia wanted me back and was willing to swap me for Gary Cole. Our team manager, Joe Caruso said, sure we'll do it, providing we get Cole as well as \$12,000."

Ward has shown enormous courage over the years, in fighting back after twice breaking his left leg, and once fracturing his right leg. Still he remains one of the most dangerous strikers in the NSL.

In fact, had he not been injured last year with 10 games to go, he may have finished ahead of Hellas's Doug Brown, Ward's former Makedonia team-mate, as the NSL's top scorer. At the time he was injured, Ward and Claude Lucchesi of Makedonia, each had 10 goals. Lucchesi finished with 16 and Lucchesi, after losing his attacking partner, scored only one more as Makedonia squandered a six-point lead to finish third. Before that Makedonia had lost only two of 30 successive matches under coach Peter Ollerton.

Ward left Makedonia early this year after being offered a two-year contract by Juventus which, in his words, made Makedonia's terms "look stupid". His transfer fee was \$10,500.

And he sees a rosy future for his new club. "Just the other day, they collected \$85,000 from supporters for their new ground and club rooms," Ward said.

"We've got the best team manager in the league — Joe Caruso — and the best coach in John Margaritis. There's no-one better than Caruso when it comes to looking after players, and at the moment he's organising a trip to Bali for us with the club paying half the fares.

"As for Margaritis, he's the most knowledgeable



Juventus ace Gary Ward hurdles a challenge from Alan Davidson of SM-Hellas.

coach I've met in Australia, barring none. He's just in a different class."

"Against Marconi, we had four reserve players in the team, and goalkeeper George Martin playing his first match. John had me playing in midfield, and we finished as top scorers."

It was the late Jim Cook, "Soccer Action's" former European correspondent, who organised Ward's move to Makedonia in 1979. "I thought, OK, I'll pack my shorts and T-shirt and enjoy life Down Under. I fell into the same trap as most other players, putting on half a stone in the first few months, and enjoying the life without taking soccer as seriously as I should have. That was to change in the National League."

"I remember my first game. George McMillan was centre forward, Robbie Cullen was on the right wing, and I came on as a substitute. It was against Hakoah, the score was 1-1 at the time, and I managed to score a couple, to help us win 4-2. From then on, I had terrific support from the Makedonia fans."

"Makedonia was a mediocre State League side when I joined. It went on to win the State League championship, build its plush social club, and come so close to winning the NSL title."

In his first two seasons with Makedonia, Ward scored 58 league and Cup goals. His first leg-break occurred against Croatia in 1980, in a collision with Ante Blavzer. A loud "snap!" echoed through the stadium. After Makedonia was admitted to the NSL in 1981, Ward spent the first 12 games watching from the sidelines then played in six until he broke the same leg again in a clash with Joe Piccone of J.U.S.T.

In 1982, he scored 10 goals — one less than Doug Brown who was the club's top scorer that year — and in 1983, with 10 matches to go, he fractured a bone in his right leg, in a game against West Adelaide.

players like Kevin Hector and Alan Hinton, it was hard to hold a place in the senior team, so I went back to England where I had a cartilage operation and then played for Dunstable Town in the Southern League, where I finished as top scorer."

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By CRAIG MACKENZIE

The big guns of Australian soccer — Sydney City Hakoah and South Melbourne Hellas — are on a collision course in the national finale and their leading sharpshooters, John Kosmina and Doug Brown are staging their own personal war as they battle for \$1,000 in our Boral Bricks top scorer award.

Brown's rapid fire effort against Melbourne Croatia last Sunday earned him a two-goal lead over Kosmina, who was prevented from adding to his season's tally by the agility and reflexes of Sydney Olympic goalkeeper Gary Meier at St. George Stadium last weekend.

Brown and Kosmina entered the National League finals locked together on 20 goals. Brown put Hellas into the National Conference grand final by scoring twice within a minute during extra time against Croatia but Hakoah found Olympic a much tougher proposition and edged ahead of its arch rival only during a dramatic penalty showdown last Sunday. So Hakoah now is in the Australian Conference grand final.

The preliminary final in Melbourne tonight (Wednesday) between Melbourne Croatia and Heidelberg at Olympic Park at 7.30 pm could see Heidelberg bow out of the finals race.

In spite of the action-packed major semi-final between Hellas and Croatia last weekend which is bound to have taken a lot out of the Croatia players, the club has a good record against Heidelberg this year and former player-coach Tommy Cumming is chock-full of confidence, declaring that Croatia not only can beat Heidelberg but can go on to defeat Hellas in the grand final at Olympic Park this Sunday.

Sydney Olympic squares up to APIA tonight (Wednesday) at St. George Stadium at 7.30 pm in the Australian Conference preliminary final and a huge crowd is expected for what should be a highlight of the finals series.

Olympic has figured in two thrillers during the finals. It emerged triumphant after an exhilarating period of extra time against Marconi last Wednesday night and last Sunday it blew a great chance to knock off mighty Hakoah.

Joe Watson, Hakoah's wisp winger, reckons that APIA can win this one and grab a grand final spot.

About 5,000 Greeks in Sydney disagree and Olympic, powered by Peter Katholos, Peter Raskopoulos, Jim Pitikas, Nick Theodorakopoulos, Chris Kalantzis and Mark Koussas, should pip APIA tonight and set up a fitting climax to the Australian Conference finals series by having another crack at Hakoah in Sunday's grand final at St. George Stadium.

Whatever the outcome of tonight's preliminary finals in Sydney and Melbourne, the final five concept has been a huge success. Media coverage and attendance figures attest to that.

The finals are here to stay.

HAKOAH GETS FARINA

A contact made two years ago realised a handsome dividend for Sydney Hakoah when flying Soccerero winger Frank Farina agreed to join Hakoah from Canberra Arrows.

Farina's paralysing speed won him accolades in this season's World Series against top international opponents.

In spite of that, Farina has not commanded a regular place in the Arrows side over recent weeks since overcoming a hamstring injury.

Hakoah coach Eddie Thomson said: "Frank was at the Australian Institute of Sport two years ago when I moved heaven and earth to sign him without success."

"I recently received a call from him asking if the previous offer still stood and I couldn't confirm it quickly enough."

This lad has tons of potential and will improve by playing alongside John Kosmina and the rest of our squad."

Farina was the centre of a big storm at the start of the year when North Queensland club Mareeba United claimed a \$20,000 transfer fee for his services.

The deal ultimately went through at \$8,000 but Farina wrote into his Canberra contract that he could leave for the same figure.

In Canberra, Arrows coach Doug Collins said: "Nobody likes losing an exciting player of Frank's calibre but he had the right to be released."

"Our plan is to persevere with Allan Reis, Hilton Phillips and Marko Perinovic in attack with outstanding Manis Lamond from Papua New Guinea backing them up."

Farina left last Friday with the Australian team in defence of the Merlion Cup in Singapore.

He also is in the national squad that leaves for China and Europe on November 1.



Socrates

Roos may face Socrates

The Socceroos may face the great Brazilian, Socrates, on their world tour starting on November 1.

They are due to meet Fiorentina in Italy in December, and Socrates, formerly with Corinthians in Brazil, is Fiorentina's star recruit.

He was captain of Brazil in the last World Cup.

Another star recruit at Fiorentina is Claudio Gentile, the tough defender who was here with Juventus for the international series in June.

Polligini has joined Fiorentina from Napoli and P. Conti has joined from Bari.

Australia's other opponents in Italy are Bari and Udinese. Dates will depend on finalisation of games in Greece, before the Socceroos move on to Italy.

Matches confirmed so far:

November 3: v China A in Peking.

November 5: v China B in Peking.

November 7: v Shanghai

November 10: v Canton

November 14: v Manchester City

November 18: v Nottingham Forest

November 20: v Glasgow Rangers

November 22: v Ajax Amsterdam

Matches in Italy (no dates yet): v Fiorentina, Udinese and Bari.

— LAURIE SCHWAB

J.U.S.T.'s fearsome midfielder Gary McDowell, showing the scars of battle.



Fabio Incantalupo — out all year, but he'll be back in the Juventus team in 1985.



Laurie Cunningham, later with Real Madrid — Gary Ward's team-mate at Orient.



Frank Farina

Having grabbed two points after a shaky start against Indonesia, the young Socceroos should qualify for the Merlion Cup semi-finals with a win against Singapore in the early hours of Saturday, Australian time.

The Australian side came from behind to beat Indonesia 2-1, through super individual goals by Warren Spink and Frank Farina.

Apart from the goals, the Australian performance was lacklustre, but the two points have given the players a psychological boost, to start believing in their ability and no doubt the game on Saturday will bring out more of the qualities we have come to expect from Australian international sides.

Singapore lost 1-2 to Holland in the early game, despite dominating for an hour and creating five clear-cut scoring chances. Singapore has two skillful players in striker Kannan and Malaysian-based Suriyumarthi, but the side plays it off the cuff, with midfielders and forwards changing positions, and an organised display by the Australians should be able to contain Singapore's exuberance.

If that happens for any length of time, Singapore cannot expect to maintain its hilly-burly pace and the longer the match goes, the stronger will be

Roo's clear first hurdle — now for Singapore!

From PETER DESIRA in Singapore

Australia's chances of getting a good result.

By comparison, Holland's national amateur team, plays a 4-3-3 formation, with two strikers and a left winger who sticks to the flank throughout.

Holland's two goals came from half-clearances and Australia's assistant coach Ron Tindall saw nothing to be afraid of in our last game in Group A on Monday morning.

Going on the first night's match and despite not having seen any of the four teams in Group B — Argentina, Chile, Iraq and South Korea — it is quite clear that Australia has been drawn in the easier of the two groups, and the really hard work will start if and when we make the semi-finals.

● Australia's Merlion Cup squad is:

Tony Franken, Frank Farina, John Mihailidis (Canberra Arrows), Robert Hooker, Andrew Bernal, Stan Ingham, Warren Spink, David Sharp, Paul Jones (Australian Institute of Sport), Howard Tredinnick, John Gregson (Melita Eagles), Ray Vlietstra, Alex Bundalo (Woll-

Argentina has brought 12 under 19 players and six older ones, with the most experienced being Sergio Buffarini who plays for First Division club Independiente.

Buffarini has long hair, Maradona-style, but one Argentinean journalist said, cruelly, that the resemblance starts and finishes at head-level.

There have been conflicting reports about Chile's squad. One stated that the side is probably the strongest in the Cup competition.

Australia's coach Jim Shoulder has been coy about Australia's chances but strongly believes his side is the fittest of the eight teams. On Saturday he again will depend on the nucleus of experienced

players in his starting line-up, with the possibility of a couple of changes to give under 19 players experience at international level.

Nuggety midfielder Andrew Sharpe is almost certain to force his way into the side. The exuberance and hard-tackling style of this Sports Institute player could help to unsettle Singapore.

Aki Kotzamechalis of Springvale City (Vic), would also be a big asset, because of his height, against the small Singapore players.

The details of the first Australian match are:

AUSTRALIA 2 (Spink 57th, Farina 70th) INDONESIA 1 (Irmis 21st)

Australia: Franken 8 — Hooker 8, Bernal 7, Vliet-

ström, Ralph Maier (Newcastle-Rosebud), Theo Stametopoulos, John Panagis (West Adelaide Hellas), Aki Kotzamechalis (Springvale City), Andrew Koczka (St. George Budapest), Coach: Jim Shoulder. Assistants: Ron Tindall, Attila Abonyi.

tra 7, Tredinnick 8 — Ingham 7, Bundalo 7th), Mihailidis 7, Maier 7, Panagis 7 (Koczka 7th) — Farina 8, Spink 8.

The Australian side took time to settle in the game, with aimless long balls pumped forward in the hope of finding either Farina or Spink.

Indonesia scored first through Irmis in the 21st minute.

Spink collected a Robert Hooker pass out of defence and set off on a solo run, past a defender, before cutting inside to fire an angled shot from inside the box, which the keeper could have done better against.

Tony Franken saved a direct free kick from Aji Ridwan Mas before Farina scored the winner in the 70th minute.

The striker sprinted past Budawan down the right, then again cut inside to fire a shot that went in off the far post.

Shoulder replaced Panagis and Ingham late in the match to give Andrew Koczka and Alex Bundalo a chance to shake off their nerves and get a feel of the atmosphere at international level.

The Singapore — Holland details:

HOLLAND 2 (Neuteboom 27th, Reglero 75th) SINGAPORE (Kannan 43rd).

Stewart Mellings of Victoria was one of the line-smen.

Savor the new man but Katholos out

Wally Savor of Sydney Croatia is the only new player included in coach Frank Arok's national squad for a world tour starting on November 1.



Wally Savor

formed a deadly partnership for two seasons.

Melbourne Croatia's Tommy Cumming, Peter Lewis and Tony Curcio, who all trailed under Arok, have been excluded.

Arok will however, lead a vastly experienced squad on the Socceroos' tour. The 22-man squad named is substantially the same as that which played in the international series against Juventus, Nottingham Forest, Glasgow Rangers, Manchester United and Iraklis earlier this year.

Frank Farina has been included despite having not been a regular starter for Canberra Arrows this season. One of the most skillful players in the league, will prove a popular choice but there is certain to be criticism of the omission of Sydney Olympic's former midfielder Peter Katholos.

Katholos has scored 13 league goals this season.

Other players to have missed out include Marconi's 15-goal striker Rob Brown, who has been named on standby, and promising Sydney Croatia forward Graham Arnold.

The Socceroo squad will leave Sydney on November 1 and will play matches in China, England, Scotland, Greece, Italy and the Netherlands.

The tour is a vital part of Australia's build-up to the forthcoming World Cup qualifying matches.

The full squad is:

Terry Greedy (St George), Tony Franken (Canberra), Tony Perzano (Sydney Hakoah), Wally Savor (Sydney Croatia), Ian Gray (Marconi), Graham Jennings (Sydney Olympic), John O'Shea (St George), Alex Robertson (Sydney Hakoah), Charlie Yankos (Heidelberg), Steve O'Connor (Sydney Hakoah), David Ratcliffe (St George), Mike O'Shea (St George), Joe Watson (Sydney Hakoah), Ken Murphy (SM-Hellas), Peter Raskopoulos (Sydney Olympic), Tommy McCulloch (Marconi), Oscar Crino (SM-Hellas), John Kosmina (Sydney Hakoah), Marshall Super (Sydney Olympic), Charlie Egan (SM-Hellas), Phil O'Connor (Blacktown City), Frank Farina (Sydney Hakoah).

Standby: Jim Patikas (Sydney Olympic), Jeff Omer (Heidelberg), Gerry Gomez (Sydney Hakoah), Rod Brown (Marconi).

NSL fans, says 103-goal Steve

By LAURIE SCHWAB

Steve Gojevic of Melbourne Croatia wanted to try his luck overseas — possibly in North America — early this year but he's thinking twice after his first NSL season.

"Playing in the NSL makes you aware of just how much Australian soccer is improving," says Gojevic.

"Overseas players who join clubs here always find it much harder than they had thought.

End for Auburn?

● NSW State League Club Auburn is fighting for its life.

Auburn's committee has been pondering the future of the club. Approaches have been made to Auburn by a number of other clubs wishing to amalgamate, but to date no decision has been made.

It is known that Yugal would dearly love to remain in the State League and one of the ways to get there is to amalgamate with Auburn.

However, Auburn is reluctant to accept any offer for amalgamation until all the avenues of sponsorship have been examined.

VSF meeting

● The annual general meeting of the Victorian Soccer Federation will take place at the Yarra Room, Swan Street, Melbourne on Thursday November 15 at 8 pm.

The following vacancies will arise: Vice-president, retiring — Pator Collins (eligible for re-election)

Chairman, Board of Management, retiring — Michael Weinstein (eligible for re-election)

Member Board of Management, retiring Lew Stafraco (eligible for re-election)

Officials continuing in office: President: John Dimmick (second year of two year term)

Vice-president: Eric Heath (second year of two year term)

Juventus of Italy, with all their big names, took on the Socceroos this year, and were able to do very little against us.

"It just goes to show how good the NSL really is. We've got good crowds, particularly in Melbourne; we've got great TV coverage from channel 0/28, and the players get very good money. What else can you ask for?"

And for Melbourne Croatia, things may be even better in 1985. "Although Jozo Antolovic looks like going home to join Osijek, we might be getting Nikica Cukrov, the international player from Hajduk Split," Gojevic says.

Gojevic, 19, started the season brilliantly, benefiting from the advice of coach Terry Hennessy who subsequently returned to Canada.

"Terry used to take me aside and have a go at me over things I wasn't doing right. He said I had to realise when to shoot, that I tended to pass the ball in the box rather than take the initiative myself. He also taught me how to defend in midfield," Gojevic says.

But his junior career couldn't have been more impressive.

In the Croatia under 13 team that featured also Danny Dezic and George Radman who now plays for St Albans Dinamo, Gojevic scored the amazing total of 103 league and Cup goals in one season.

Croatia won every game that year, and in a 2-1 victory, Gojevic notched 14 goals. Playing for his regional selection against Ballarat region, he scored 17 in a 28-0 victory.

He represented Victoria from under 13 to under 16 levels and was in the Victorian under 16 team that won six games in six days on a tour of New Zealand. John Campbell of George Cross and Andrew

Zinni of Juventus also were on that tour.

Twice he was top scorer in the national junior championships — at under 14 level, when Victoria won the title in Whyalla, and at under 15 level when Victoria ran second to NSW.

He's a little disappointed not to have been given more of a chance in the national squad. Coach Frank Arok had him in the initial training squad for the mid-year international series, but he was dropped later.

As for Croatia, he concedes that "player power" caused a slump in the team's performance.

"Some players were trying to influence team selection, which is wrong, in my opinion. That rubbed off on other players, who weren't happy. The discipline went, and that carried over onto the pitch. Now, however, it's all been cleaned up and we're firing again."

Gojevic has been playing at left midfield and in attack, but would love to have a crack at central midfield.

"I probably am not physical enough to play as striker at the moment, but I like it on the left, providing I get fed with the ball. I like to release it and go again for the one-two. I'm different to Josip Biskic who plays on the right. He likes to take men on and bamboozle them with his skill. He's incredible — definitely our top player this year."

Gojevic intends to work hard at increasing his speed and shooting power.

Ironically, Gojevic didn't play soccer at school.

Instead he was full forward in the Doncaster East team that won the Victorian High Schools' championship. "I scored an average of three a game. I had the height, so I just had to stick up my hands. It was good fun."



Croatia's Steve Gojevic (right) breaks away from Hellas opponents Ken Murphy (No. 11) and Oscar Crino (left). In the background is Jozo Antolovic.

Deaf to face might of Asia

The 21-member national deaf team goes into a training camp at Romsey in Victoria late this year before flying to Hong Kong to compete in a major international tournament from December 18-22.

Coach Matthew Veale and his squad are confident of success despite the quality of the tournament which includes national teams from Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and Taipei.

Veale will take a 16-member squad to Hong Kong with him. There are five players on stand-by. The full squad is:

GOALKEEPERS: Daryl Jordan, Tony Markovitch. DEFENDERS: Lindsay Hayes, Tony Kinnane, Nel-



Flashback to 1980 — the Australian team which competed in Mexico in qualifying matches for the World Games of the deaf.

Moir, Michael Walker, Paul Burrows (captain).

MIDFIELDERS: Andrew Moir, Glen Moir, Ian Campbell, John Kearney, Barry Sam.

FORWARDS: Peter Le Page, Raymond Smith, Gordon Einsiedel, Trevor Ross.

EMERGENCIES: Mick O'Brien, Dale Maughan, Graham Kaims (from Queensland), Gordon Smith, Martin Ramadan (Victoria). The Australian party also includes Graham Home (team manager), Barry Knapman (assistant coach), John Smeton (manager) and Wendy Home, who

will be the Australian's soccer delegate at the congress of Hong Kong for the south east Asian association of the deaf.

Overseas competition isn't new to the national team, which competed in Mexico in 1980 in qualifying matches for the World Games of the deaf. Australia lost by the odd goal in a nine-goal thriller against the U.S.

The Hong Kong Sports Association of the Deaf is organising December's tournament and is paying for the Australians' accommodation. Mr Rob Di Marco of Norcote Sports is supplying

tracksuits and strips for the Australians who will compete in group B of the tournament. The groups are:

GROUP A: Malaysia, Taipei, Hong Kong, Japan.

GROUP B: Australia, India, Indonesia, Korea.

Australia's match schedule is: December 18: v. India. December 19: v. Indonesia. December 20: v. Korea. The top two teams in each group advance to the semi-finals to be played on Friday, December 21. The final will be played the following day at the Mongkok Stadium.

— CRAIG MACKENZIE

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Coady, Katholos blow it again



Croatia's David Brogan in an aerial duel with Steve Blair (right) and Carl Halford of Hellas — Picture by LES SHORROCK.

Croatia just can't keep Brown down

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 3 (Yzendoorn 84th, Brown 95th & 96th.) MELBOURNE CROATIA 2 (Gojevic 44th, Cumming 115th.) after extra time, National Conference major semi-final at Olympic Park, Sunday. Crowd about 11,000. Referee: Don Campbell 9. Cautions: Blair (SM), Crino (SMA), Parton (Cr). Sent off: Adams (Cr) 118th.

HELLAS: Laumets 7, Russell 9, Blair 7, Yzendoorn 84th, Postecoglou 7 — Kanasoulis 8, Halford 7, Crino 9, Murphy 8 — Brown 7, Egan 8. Coach: Len McKendry.

CROATIA: Banovic 7 — Lewis 9, Curcio 8, Parton 9, Deankovic 7 (Hannah 85th) — Biskic 8, Antolovic 6, Campbell 6, Gojevic 7 — Cumming 7, Brogan 6 (Adams 100th — Adams sent off, 118th). Coach: Tony Vrzina.

Melbourne Croatia was six minutes away from qualifying for the grand final, because it had managed to keep Doug Brown under control for so long. Oscar Crino had been shrugging off Jim Campbell in midfield, Ken Murphy had been running riot, and Charlie Egan had been giving Tony Curcio a run for his money, but Brown rarely had been sighted.

You can't keep a good man down, though, and so it was to be in extra time.

With a helping hand from canny Crino, Brown got his chance in the 95th minute, and took it. He scored again 30 seconds later, boosting his season's tally to 22 — two more



Laurie Schwab

than Hakoah's John Kosmina — and giving Hellas a 3-1 lead. He now has scored seven goals in Hellas's five victories over Croatia this year.

Matches between Hellas and Croatia are taking on the countenance of titanic struggles not only on the field, but also off it. Opposing groups of young fans staged a violent war of words and punches throughout the on-field hostilities.

Croatia went into this game with the insecurity of knowing it had lost three league matches and the Buffalo Gold Cup final to Hellas this year, and with its confidence perhaps dented by the omission of Tony Curcio, Tommy Cumming, Peter Lewis and Yakkia Banovic from the Soccercross match that starts its world tour on November 1.

Obviously Croatia had to play as tightly as possible all over the field to turn the tables on Hellas, and it did just that. All you needed to do was watch Josip Biskic tackling, chasing opponents and popping up next to his own defenders.

But by having Campbell tagging Crino, Croatia virtually reduced its team to 10 men for most of the time. Crino still emerged as the man of the match, and with Campbell's concentration focused so heavily on his marking job, he fluffed two excellent scoring chances late in the match.

Croatia actually had more scoring chances than Hellas — including a breakaway by Steve Gojevic which surely should have led to a goal — so they should provide a thrilling grand final providing Croatia

Man of the Match:
OSCAR CRINO
(SM-Hellas)

manages to overcome Heidelberg tonight (Wednesday).

Hellas lined up with John Kanasoulis in place of Alan Davidson who was out on medical advice after collapsing during the Soccercross match against Tasmania on the Wednesday (see page 14) and John Yzendoorn returned in place of Kris Kalfatidis.

Croatia fielded an unchanged line-up, with Robert Markovac still missing because he and the club have not yet agreed on a new contract.

Don Campbell had been flown from Adelaide to referee the match and his only difficult moment came near the end, when he had to send off Croatia substitute Keith Adams over a clash with Murphy.

Both teams could have scored within a minute. First Steve Gojevic sent a free header straight at goalkeeper Peter Laumets, and then, after breaking clear, Brown belted his shot over the top.

Parton headed in a free kick from Biskic in the 6th minute, but it didn't count because Don Campbell had whistled for an infringement.

Lewis came to the rescue to cancel out a mistake by Curcio, whose back-pass was picked up by Egan. With Yakkia Banovic back-peddalling into his goal, Egan crossed but Lewis got to the ball ahead of the Hellas forwards.

Then, two more chances for Hellas. From a Brown cross, Egan headed over the bar, and Crino, after a flashy solo run, was foiled by Banovic's one-handed save.

The deadlock was broken in the 44th minute, and Croatia went in at half time, with the luxury of leading. Biskic played a first-time cross and David Brogan slipped it short to Gojevic who rammed it home on an angle.

Gojevic should have scored again in the 84th minute. Rommy Cumming played a square pass to Lewis, he sent Gojevic through the defence with a fine forward ball, and Gojevic was left facing Laumets, but slipped the ball straight to him. No doubt he was trying to play the ball past Laumets, but it didn't come off.

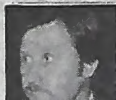
Lewis came to Croatia's rescue again in the 68th minute, booting the ball over the line for a corner after Egan had wriggled past Curcio, with Brown and Murphy waiting at the far post.

SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH 1 (Gomez 21st) **SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1** (Katholos 16th). Sydney City won 4-2 on penalties. Australian conference major semi-final at St George Stadium, Sunday. Crowd 11,156. Double header. Referee: Peter Rampley 8.

SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH: Pezzano 8 — K. Falconer 7, Gomez 9, S. O'Connor 8, De Marigny 5 (90th) **Peterston** 8, Key 7, Watson 8, Barnes 7 — Lee 6 (Murray 93rd), Kosmina 6, P. Falconer 6. Coach: Eddie Thomson.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier 8 — Rogers 8, Dekker 8, Coady 8, Jennings 8 — Katholos 8, Raskopoulos 8, Phillips 8 — Theodorakopoulos 6, Koussas 7, Kalantzis 6 (Petalis 99th). Coach: Manfred Schaefer.

Sydney's largest crowd of the season flocked to St. George Stadium to see Hakoah and Olympic do battle for the right to enter the Australian Conference Grand Final.



Alex Vesic

Almost 12,000 spectators shouted themselves hoarse as Olympic tried valiantly to outdo the boys from Bondi.

And Olympic came so close to beating Australia's premier side. After 120 minutes of play, penalties decided the issue as Peter Katholos and Mike Coady, the men who missed penalties against Marconi last Wednesday, repeated the dose during the penalties shoot-out here to see their team crash inches away from a Grand Final berth.

From a promoter's point of view the result was ideal for APIA and Olympic are bound to provide a huge gate tonight (Wednesday). But for the winner of the match between APIA and Olympic there will be no mercy shown on Sunday.

But Olympic almost knocked off Hakoah here.

Chris Kalantzis, the darling of the Greek crowd, could have given his side the lead in the 16th minute after receiving an ideal pass from Katholos but he muffed a simple chance after Tony Pezzano came out to cut the angle. The shot by Kalantzis gave Pezzano a simpler job than anticipated.

A few minutes later, from a clearance by Gary Meier, it was Peter Raskopoulos who hit a first-timer towards hard running Mark Koussas. Paul Kay made a desperate attempt to catch Koussas but fell, leaving the Olympic striker with a clear run. Koussas went almost to the by-line before cutting his cross low into the area. Mick Theodorakopoulos jumped over the ball, leaving Katholos with a simple shot at goal to give Olympic a 1-0 lead.

Only five minutes later, Hakoah made it 1-1. Theodorakopoulos tackled Jean-Paul De Marigny with the ball

Hellas's young players, John Kanasoulis and Angel Postecoglou, were prominent during this period. In the 6th minute, Postecoglou cut the ball back from the left corner, to Murphy in the iddle but Murphy's shot went low straight to Banovic.

Bobby Russell was providing solid back-up for all of Hellas's attacks, and in the 80th minute, with Banovic off his line, Russell tried a header over Banovic, towards the net. The goalkeeper, however, took a few quick steps back, to grab the ball safely.

John Yzendoorn started to move up from defence, to add an extra man to the forward thrusts. Suddenly he found himself with the ball at his feet inside the box, but Deankovic blocked the shot. Russell tried a follow-up which was stopped in turn by Parton, and the move ended with Carl Halford heading over the bar.

Finally, however, Hellas's pressure was rewarded. Egan beat Curcio out wide on the right and cut the ball back for Yzendoorn who scored from the middle of the area. Six minutes to go, and Hellas was back in the game!

George Hannah replaced Deankovic as the match went into extra time.

And it took only five minutes for Hellas to hit the lead.

Crino cut in front of Jozo Antolovic and slipped the ball wide to unmarked Brown who belted it first-time past Banovic.

Seconds later, Brown found himself in acres of space, with Banovic coming out. The deadly striker played a perfect job over the goalkeeper, into the empty net, and it appeared the match was over.

Not so.

Cumming is not a man to be beaten easily. He drew on all his remaining energies as he got clear of Yzendoorn in the 104th minute and crossed into the middle where Campbell, however, headed across goal.

In the second half of extra time, Cumming battled doggedly for the ball inside the area and when Campbell came racing in, a goal seemed certain, yet Campbell shot too high.

So Cumming had to do it himself. With five minutes left, he ducked between Russell and Steve Blair, and planted a shot just inside the near post to set the scene for a dramatic ending.

Keith Adams had come on for Brown, and Parton had moved from defence to attack. Adams played a far-post cross in the 116th minute, Parton nodded it down but Campbell, from two metres, scooped the ball over the bar.

Adams was sent off with two minutes to play, and Hellas remains unbeaten in 10 consecutive matches.

Man of the Match:
GERARDO GOMEZ
(SC-Hakoah)



Gerardo Gomez

out of play and a free kick was awarded to Hakoah. Joe Watson floated his cross to the far post for Gerardo Gomez to head home a simple goal.

From then on, the game developed into a hard tussle for every ball. It was a tough contest with heavy tackles coming from all directions.

Chances were rare and when they came the finishing touch was missing. Kay was the first recipient of a chance after a brilliant curling pass by Watson put Kay into the clear, but his shot failed to find the mark from close range. At the other end, Theodorakopoulos controlled a cross by Koussas then blasted it just wide.

Meier was Olympic's hero as he made two fine saves close to the end. The first was from a shot by Peter Falconer then, seconds later, from a shot by Murray Barnes. In the 75th minute Olympic looked beaten as Grant Lee went through to face Meier, but yet again the shot was way off the mark.

In the final minute of normal time, Olympic made a last desperate attempt. Coady found Katholos, who pushed it forward for Raskopoulos. His chip to Koussas was followed by an overhead pass to Theodorakopoulos who left footed it over the bar. It was a great move but the finishing was weak.

Two minutes into extra time, Keith Falconer beat the offside trap then found De Marigny unmarked with his cross, but De Marigny could not find the net.

At the other end, Theodorakopoulos beat Pezzano with a low shot but the ball sailed across goal with no-one to tuck it away. Meier then made a fine save from John Kosmina before Theo-

dorakopoulos missed a sitter after good work by Raskopoulos and Koussas. With seconds remaining in extra time, Kay raced past a couple of defenders but failed to find the net from 10 metres out.

And so, for the second time in one day, penalties were needed to separate the sides.

Steve O'Connor made it 1-0, then Gary Phillips scored to make it 1-1. Kosmina added to the Hakoah tally before Katholos came in to take his shot. The referee was not happy with the position of the ball and all hell broke loose behind the goal as Olympic supporters booed the referee's decision to respect the ball. Katholos, affected by the incident, sent his shot straight at Pezzano.

Willie Murray made it 3-1, then Koussas cut Hakoah's lead to 3-2. Watson's shot was saved by Meier before Coady came in to take his shot. The man who successfully took penalties last year, missed his second penalty in as many games as Pezzano saved well.

It now was up to Gomez. He scored and that made the score 4-2 with Olympic not required to take its last penalty.



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APIA LEICHHARDT 3 (Bertogna 74th, Colagiuri 96th, Bozanic penalty 105th) **MARCONI 3** (Sharne 20th, Brown 117th, Jankovics 118th after extra time. APIA won 4-3 on penalties. Australian conference minor semi-final at St. George Stadium, Sunday 9. Crowd: 11,156. Double header. Referee: Tim Davies 9. Cautions: Calderan (M), Butler, Caban (A).

APIA: Parks 7, Bozanic 3, Bertogna 7, Pullen 8, Brown 7, Butler 6 (Spain 117th), Gray 7, Tredinnick 8, Bradley 6, Caban 6, Genovese 6 (Colagiuri 68th 7). Coach: Fil Bottalico.

MARCONI: James 7, Spanos 8, Henderson 6, Calderan 5, Rizzotto 7 (Mariani 83rd) Mason 7, McCulloch 7, Jankovics 7, Lowe 6, Brown 6, Sharne 6 (Carbone 70th 6). Coach: Les Scheinflug.

In a game full of drama, the fortunes see-sawed for 120 minutes and during the penalties showdown before Mark Pullen scored from the spot to tip Marconi out of the play-offs.

Marconi took the lead after 20 minutes following a horrible back-pass by Arno Bertogna. Peter Sharne

IT'S BYE, BYE MARCONI!

By ALEX VESIC

chimed in to round Bobby Parks and score. But just when it looked as if Marconi was going to win, Bertogna came into the attack to pick up a mis-kick by Tredinnick and score.

It was just the tonic APIA needed.

Marconi struggled through the remaining minutes to go into extra time but a brilliant solo effort by Vincent Colagiuri, then a Penalty by Vic Bozanic, gave APIA a 3-1 lead.

With three minutes remaining in extra time, Marconi was all but gone. Then came two quick goals, first by Rod Brown, then a great effort by Mark Jankovics and the two sides had to settle for a penalty shoot-out.

Man of the Match:
TERRY BUTLER
(APIA)

It was Marconi's turn to smile as Bertie Mariani made it 1-0, then Bruce James saved from Bozanic. David Lowe made it 2-0, then Ian Gray hit the crossbar. In came Tom McCulloch who needed to score to give his side an almost insurmountable lead, but Parks saved, then Bertogna scored to make it 2-1 for Marconi.

Drama continued as Parks saved again, this time from Tony Henderson, before Colagiuri made it 2-2. Jankovics made it 3-2, but John Bradley replied to make 3-3. Then came sudden death penalties. Brown missed the target, Pullen found the net and that was the ball game! Nerves played a big part in this match. Steve Calderan made a number of mistakes during the first period and Marconi was lucky to escape with its narrow 1-0 lead during that stanza. With the wind at its back in the second half, Marconi was expected to more than hold its narrow lead.

However, APIA came forward in droves and dominated for most of this half. Tony Genovese, APIA's hero from last Wednesday night, was in the clear in the 61st minute after a good move by Butler and Peter Tredinnick, but his shot went wide.

Marconi almost bounced back in the 67th minute from a Craig Mason through ball which put Jankovics in the clear. Parks came out of goal but the shot by Jankovics sailed over. Had that gone in the game would have been all over.

Soon after, Bertogna equalised then came a period of sustained pressure from APIA which should have netted it at least a goal or two.

In the extra time period it was all APIA. Colagiuri received a pass from Tredinnick before setting sail for Marconi's goal in the 96th minute. He beat three Marconi players before scoring.

Five minutes later, Bradley was through only to be pulled down by James inside the area. Bozanic made no mistake with his penalty kick to give APIA an almost unassailable lead.

Marconi looked beaten until Brown turned inside APIA's Penalty area to score. Only a minute later, Jankovics beat two defenders inside the box then calmly planted his shot wide of Parks to change the pattern of the game once more.

APIA must have rued its missed chances during extra time with Butler, APIA's best player on the day, missing two sisters in the 105th and 107th minutes when the score was 3-1 to APIA!

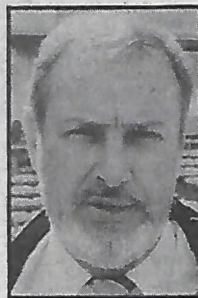
Oliver tames the Lions supermen

By LAURIE SCHWAB

Man of the Match:
ALAN HUNTER
(Brisb. Lions)

HEIDELBERG-ALEXANDER
0 BRISBANE LIONS 0.

National Conference minor semi-final at Olympic Park, Sunday. Heidelberg won on penalties 3-2. Referee Sam



Gordon Arrowsmith

Zoumas 8, Cautions: Cairney (BL).

HEIDELBERG: Oliver 9 — Angela 8, Yankos 8, Macleod 8, Marley 8 — Selemidis 7, Peterson 8, Valentine 8 — Stevenson 9, Winn 7, Tasios 6 (Metexas 90th). Coach: Brian Garvey.

BRISBANE LIONS: Evans 8 — McSkimming 8, Hunter 9, S. Vasquez 8, Niven 8 — R. Stewart 9, J. Stewart 6, Junna 7 — Cairney 6 (Burne 115th), McDonagh 6, (Ogden 115th), Daunt 7. Coach: Gordon Arrowsmith.

Alan Hunter in defence and Russell Stewart in midfield, must be some kind of supermen. They showed none of the effects of having travelled about 7000 kilometres to play Lions's third match in Melbourne within a week, but when it really counted — during the penalties showdown — Stewart hit the post and Hunter had his shot saved by goalkeeper Jeff Oliver.

In fact, Oliver also saved Paul Burns's shot, to pave the way for Heidelberg's victory.

Stewart Stevenson, who had played so well for Heidelberg in attack, hit the post, but Steve Marley, Charlie Yankos and Theo Selemidis all scored, to give Heidelberg the 3-2 penalties scoreline. Only Alan Niven and John Ogden were successful for Lions.

Considering their marathon travels, it would have been somewhat of a miracle had Lions progressed much further in the finals. Theirs was, however, an effort that long will live in the memory. When Gordon Arrowsmith took over as coach, Lions were third-last on the ladder. That was 17 matches ago, and in that time, Lions won 10, drew two and lost five, although they had picked up only two players during the season — Ray Junna from Canberra and Joe



The valiant Brisbane Lions — they travelled about 8000 km to play three matches in Melbourne last week — against Makedonia, Juventus and Heidelberg. From left, standing: Bobby McSkimming, Paul Burns, Alan Hunter, Roddy Vasquez, Calvin Daunt, Jim McDonagh. Front: Joe Cairney, John Stewart, Alan Niven, Wayne Evans, John Ogden, Russell Stewart, Ray Junna. Picture: LES SHORROCK



Heidelberg defender Steve Marley slides in to tackle Lions winger Joe Cairney at Olympic Park last Sunday. Picture: LES SHORROCK.

Cairney from Brisbane City.

Queenslanders from as far away as Cairns were ringing the Lions club with good wishes for this match — and Lions, despite signs of tiredness, held out for 120 minutes before succumbing in the penalties showdown.

Lions were solid as ever in defence — due to mighty Hunter and goalkeeper Wayne Evans — Russell Stewart ran endlessly in midfield, but his brother John was much quieter than usual, and the forwards didn't have the energy to match the resolute Heidelberg defenders.

Heidelberg played without Ian McKie and Scott Patterson who both were out injured, while Lions lined up without Steve Jackson and Clark Anderson, also injured.

With Mike Petersen and Mike Valentine running the midfield, Heidelberg gained many more scoring chances than Lions, but failed to convert them into goals.

Petersen, on a square ball from Charlie Yankos, blasted narrowly over the top in the 13th minute, and later had a Pele-type curling shot repelled by Evans.

Petersen also figured in

a move from which Steve Winn should have scored a minute before half time. After playing a one-two with Petersen, Winn raced in to face Evans on an angle but in playing the ball under Evans, he also shot wide of the near post. A one-two between Calvin Daunt and Cairney ended with Daunt shooting too high just after half time.

Then Evans made a brilliant one-handed save to stop a free kick from Valentine.

John Stewart cleared a header from Joe Angele on the near post, and then Stevenson created two scoring chances. From the first, Winn headed too high, and then Stevenson's good work resulted in a chance for Steve Tasios, who missed.

At the other end, Daunt had a header held by the faultless Oliver, Russell Stewart shot across goal, and after good work by Jim McDonagh, Bobby McSkimming missed.

John Metexas replaced Tasios during extra time, and in the 100th minute, Alan Hunter prevented what should have been a Heidelberg goal.

Winn did the lead-up work, with a run down the left and a square ball to Selemidis, who had moved on to the forward line. Sele-

midis played it square to Winn again, but Winn's shot, after beating Evans, was topped on the line by Hunter.

Arrowsmith replaced Cairney and McDonagh with Paul Burns and John Ogden as the penalties showdown drew nearer, and within a minute of coming on, Burns hit the woodwork. He was to be just as unlucky during the penalties.



Stuart Stevenson

Heidelberg goalkeeper Jeff Oliver plucks the ball out of the air before Lions forward Jim McDonagh can make contact.

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Les Murray of Channel 0

MATCH OF THE DAY BY SKIN OF TEETH!

Channel 0/28 soccer host Les Murray described Sunday as "the most traumatic but also the most exciting day of my life in television".

At 8.15 pm — only 15 minutes before the end of the "Match of the Day" programme, Murray and the others at Channel 0 still didn't know how they would be able to complete the show.

The late game in Sydney finished at 7.20 pm, and by 8.15 the tape was still in transit.

"We were standing outside the studio, ready to jump in and ad lib for 15 minutes," Murray said.

The turmoil was caused by all four semi-finals going into extra time, and three into the penalty showdown.

The first of the Melbourne matches was edited in Sydney and the second in Melbourne and beamed to Sydney at 7.30 pm — the time that the show started!

Murray's weekly column in "Soccer Action" has been held over because of a space shortage, but it will reappear next week.

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Stewart brothers run midfield, live in disarray

BRISBANE LIONS 4 (McDonagh 25th, J. Stewart 30th, R. Stewart 44th, Cairney 78th) B. U. JUVENTUS 2 (Sweeney 16th & 25th), NSL elimination final at Olympic Park, Wednesday night. Crowd: 282 (double-header). Referee: Stewart Mellings 7. Cautions: Miranda (J).

BRISBANE LIONS: Evans 8 - Jackson 6, Vasquez 8, Hunter 8, Niven 8 - R. Stewart 9, J. Stewart 9, Junna 8 - Anderson 8, McDonagh 9, Daunt 7 (Cairney 62nd). Coach: Gordon, Arrowsmith.

JUVENTUS: Martin 7 - Rogers 6, Dowle 6, Campbell 9, Geremia 5 (Drinoczyk 6, half time) - Cullen 7, Miranda 6, Lloyd 5 - Zinni 5, Sweeney 8, Ward 7. Coach: John Margaritis.

Juventus striker Gary Wary handed Lions the praise due to them - particularly to the Stewart brothers and Jim McDonagh - but expressed the disappointment which was felt by all Juventus supporters after their team had been knocked out of the finals.

"In the first 20 minutes, our midfielder got the ball up to Joe Sweeney and to me and we looked like winning it easily but after that our service dried up, and the Brisbane Lions midfield got on top of us - particularly the Stewart brothers. Their midfield always seemed to find an extra man somewhere, meaning Sweeney and I had to go chasing all over the place for the ball, and try to get it forward ourselves.

"Our defenders also had a disappointing night," Ward said. "The Lions forwards popped up unmarked too often, and they got their first three goals from only four attacks. One of them was directly from a corner, which just should not be allowed. That's criminal. OK, the ball went over George Martin, but then we should have had a man at the back post, which we didn't. Martin however, made a couple of first-class saves apart from that - particularly from McDonagh in the second half. That was world-class.

"But we've been giving away silly goals. Against Macedonia there was an own goal and a penalty, and before that we had the same time against George Cross, even though we were scoring heaps at the other end.

"When we got back to 2-1, I thought that's it. They couldn't come back again. But what we needed at that time was for someone to put his foot on the ball and steady the game down, rather than smashing it upfield.

"The last goal came from a miskick by John Dowle in defence, but by the same token, I reckon George Cairney was offside when he put it in. What's more, when John Stewart scored, Sweeney complained that Stewart had jumped onto his shoulder to get to the ball. Even the linesman was flagging for that one.

But full marks to Lions. They've got great fighting spirit. They always encourage each other and they never stop battling away. They've got a lot of ability up front as well.

And so Gordon Arrowsmith further extended his outstanding success record since taking over as Lions' coach 16 matches ago. In that time, Lions have won 10 games, drawn two and lost only four, for a goals tally of 27:18. And Lions were second last when he took over!

By the same token, however, John Margaritis has achieved near-miracles with Juventus, considering that so many players missed matches due to injuries and suspensions.

Lions went into this game having lost only once in eight straight games - to Melita Eagles 2-0 five weeks earlier. During the same eight weeks, Juventus had lost three times - to Heidelberg, Macedonia and Lions.

Juventus had Andrew Zinni and Richard Miranda back in the team, but Paul Drinoczyk was out with a hamstring injury. He did, however, appear as a substitute for Frank Geremia at half time.

Lions drew two and lost only four, for a goals tally of 27:18. And Lions were second last when he took over!

It was the most action-packed first half you'd see anywhere.

Man of the Match:
JIM McDONAGH
(Brisb. Lions)

Even in the first minute, Lions goalkeeper Wayne Evans had to save a close-range effort from Ward as a low free kick from Miranda.

Zinni headed too high from a Miranda throw-in and at the other end a long-range volley from Calvin Daunt whistled past the post.

A good move put Juventus ahead in the 16th minute. Robert Cullen played a long crossfield ball to Zinni who cut it square for Sweeney to side it past Evans.

Sweeney could have had three more goals in the next six minutes. A Miranda corner was cleared short, and Sweeney belted it goalwards only to see Roddy Vasquez stop the shot on the goal line.

In the 21st minute, Ward headed the ball on and Sweeney's bouncing shot was just held by Evans. Seconds later, from a square ball by Ward, Sweeney's header sailed over the bar.

Lions looked dead and buried,

into the penalty area, where goalkeeper Martin smothered. McDonagh maintained his great form in holding up play while waiting for support, and then enabling Daunt to launch a shot that was reflected for a corner.

John Stewart then sent a fine pass to McDonagh who faced Martin, but the Juventus goalkeeper made a brilliant save.

With all that attacking action, Lions were bound to score - but who would have thought the goal would come directly from a corner, taken by Russell Stewart in the 44th minute? That really knocked the stuffing out of Juventus.

Even though Drinoczyk came on at half time, to pick up Daunt, resulting in a re-positioning of the defenders, Juventus quickly was put under pressure again.

And it was that man McDonagh again, who turned inside the box to shoot. Martin's one-handed save however, enabled Juventus to breathe again.

Then the Juventus defence twice lost the ball, and the second time, Niven almost scored.

Ward picked up the ball in midfield in the 60th minute and stylishly outplayed three opponents but his long shot was touched over the bar one-handed by Evans.



Billy Rogers - may have played his last match

Hail a champion

Juventus defender Billy Rogers may have played his last match - so the semi-final against Lions probably signalled the end of an era

Rogers, 35, has had more comebacks than Nello Melba, but this season appears to have been his last - although if he wanted to, he easily could play on. He's certainly got the capability.

It's unlikely, however, that he will be one of the true champions of Australian soccer.

Rogers, born in South Africa, started playing soccer with Sunshine City in Melbourne - initially as a raw-boned midfielder with endless energy to make up at the time for his shortness of fitness.

From there he moved to Melbourne-Hugaria, where he finished as top scorer in 1970, on a forward line that included his former Sunshine team mate Ray Pocock, and also the elegant Steve Blackney.

Rogers was picked to represent Victoria, and he moved to Sydney to play at first for Auburn, and then for APIA where his fellow striker was Peter Ollerton.

He played against Pele and Santos in the green and gold in 1972, and later joined South Melbourne Hellas where he excelled in midfield.

He was called up for Australia's World Cup matches in 1981 and had the misfortune of playing in the team that was eliminated by New Zealand. It was in 1983 that he switched to Juventus, and accompanied the club into the NSL.

but rigor mortis had by no means set in yet.

Hunter played a crossfield ball to the right where Clark Anderson and Geremia challenged in the air. Anderson got his head to it, and sent it to unmarked McDonagh who put it away easily.

Less than 30 seconds later, Sweeney met Zinni's cross with a powerful header that flashed over Evans's head to put Juventus back into the lead.

But Juventus's jubilation lasted less than five minutes, before John Stewart headed Lions back on level terms from a free kick by his brother Russell.

Lions went for blood.

A long forward ball from Alan Niven sent John Stewart running

HELLAS MOST POPULAR

By STAN CUMMINS

South Melbourne Hellas was the best-attended club in the NSL, according to statistics compiled from approximate crowd figures published in "Soccer Action".

TOP 5 CROWD ATTENDANCES

1. BU Juventus vs South Melb Hellas 12,000 (Olympic Park No. 2)
2. SM-Hellas vs Heidelberg 11,000 (Middle Park)
3. SM-Hellas vs Macedonia 10,000 (Middle Park)
4. SM-Hellas vs Heidelberg 10,000 (Middle Park)
5. Heidelberg vs BU Juventus 9,000 (Olympic Village)

BOTTOM 5 CROWD ATTENDANCES

1. Wollongong vs Canberra 150 (Depto Showgrounds)
2. Penrith Cvs Brisbane C 215 (Cook Park)
3. Penrith Cvs Brisbane C 250 (Cook Park)
4. Sydney Hakoah vs Newcastle Rosebuds 300 (Barton Park)
5. Brisbane Lions vs Blacktown 400 (Richlands)

Number of times featured on "Match of the Day": Sydney Olympic 12, South Melb Hellas 11, Melbourne Croatia 11, Macedonia 10, Sydney City Hakoah 9, Heidelberg 8, APIA 7, Marconi 6, Juventus 5, Melita 5, Sydney Croatia 4, Green Gully 4, Blacktown 4, St George 4, Canberra 4, Footscray JUST 3, George Cross 2, West Adelaide 1, Brisbane Lions 1, Penrith C 1, Brisbane C 0, Adelaide C 0, Wollongong C 0, Newcastle R 0

POS.	TEAMS	AVERAGE HOME ATTENDANCE	TOTAL ATTENDANCE FOR 1984	NUMBER OF HOME GAMES
1	SM-Hellas	5,233	78,500	15
2	Sydney Olympic	3,887	58,307	15
3	Heidelberg Alexander	3,782	52,950	14
4	Sydney Croatia	3,413	47,783	14
5	Macedonia	3,367	50,500	15
6	Melb. Croatia	3,053	42,739	14
7	BU Juventus	3,014	42,199	14
8	Footscray JUST	2,179	30,500	14
9	Melita Eagles	2,137	32,052	15
10	George Cross	2,036	28,500	14
11	West Adol. Hellas	2,025	30,377	15
12	St. George	2,011	28,153	14
13	Adol. City Juve	1,885	26,388	14
14	APIA	1,799	23,386	13
15	Newcastle Rosebud	1,765	24,710	14
16	Marconi	1,675	25,129	15
17	Green Gully	1,500	19,500	13
18	Brisbane City	1,415	18,393	13
19	Canberra City	1,386	19,399	14
20	Blacktown City	1,232	17,244	14
21	Penrith City	1,227	15,949	13
22	Wollongong	1,170	15,210	13
23	Sydney Hakoah	1,129	14,677	13
24	Brisbane Lions	857	11,995	14

NB: This table does not include NSL cup games, only League games.

Super Lewis goal, Heidelberg loses its unity

Man of the Match:
PETER LEWIS
(Croatia)

MELBOURNE CROATIA 2 (Lewis 11th, Brogan penalty 33rd) HEIDELBERG-ALEXANDER 1 (Petersen 1st), NSL qualifying semi-final at Olympic Park, Wednesday night. Crowd: 2822 (double header). Referee: Chris Brambridge 7. Cautions: Lewis (Cr), Stevenson (H), McKie (H), Winn (H).

CROATIA: Banovic 7 - Lewis 9, Curcio 8, Parton 7, Daankovic 7 - Biskic 8, Antolovic 7, Campbell 7, Gojevic 7 - Brogan 7, Cumming 8. Coach: Tony Vrzina.

HEIDELBERG: Oliver 7, Macleod 8, Marley 8 - Seledimic 5, Peterson 5, Valentine 5 - Tasios 7 (inj. sub. Metaxas 85th), Winn 7, Stevenson 6. Coach: Brian Garvey.

Croatia shook off its recent problems and produced a commendable team effort, fighting back to win after falling behind to Mike Petersen's header in only the first minute, while Heidelberg lost its composure and relied much too heavily on long balls intended for Steve Winn.

"We've been renowned for our team unity, but that wasn't there as much against Croatia," said Heidelberg captain Theo Seledimic.

"We had much more confidence in earlier games, but after we fell behind, our confidence dropped and we seemed to panic. There was too much desperation in our game. A lot of us seemed to use only the long ball, yet we should have been more patient and built up the game more steadily.

"We weren't using each other enough - and that applies throughout the team - from defence, through midfield to the forwards.

"However, I think we've got a terrific young squad, and a big future and we can only get stronger. At the start of the year no one expected us to do well, yet we surpassed everyone's expectations in finishing second on the ladder."

Croatia midfielder Steve Gojevic said plans for the victory were laid down well in advance of the match.

"We'd had a couple of indifferent results, and there's been that publicity about the alleged factions pulling against each other in the 'Gojevic' and 'Petersen' camps."

"Our president, Joe Sigur, had given us a talk a couple of weeks earlier, when he really laid down the law, saying the club was spending about \$200,000 this year, and everyone was getting good wages, so it was up to each of us to put in 100 per cent."

"So all the players decided that

the club comes first and that we would have to put it in if we were going to do any good.

"If every player produces 100 per cent effort, no team should be able to come near us, because we've got so much skill overall."

"We also worked a bit harder on closing down opponents - playing seven against seven on half a pitch at training."

"And it all worked well for us. We could have won by more, because we hit the woodwork twice."

"Steve Winn was a bit of a worry, because he's scored six goals in three previous games against us. In the box, we were a bit hesitant when he was around."

"Also, Petersen's early goal set us back. It had been a problem with us that when we conceded an early goal, we'd struggle, but this time we rolled up our sleeves and got stuck in."

Then Peter Lewis scored that amazing goal from 38 metres, and that lifted us. I think he still hasn't recovered from that. We were stirring him afterwards about it, but he said it was just pure skill.

There was a bit of arguing among the Heidelberg players as the game wore on, and the younger players, like Steve Tasios and Mike Petersen, copped a bit of unfair criticism."

There were, incidentally, a few harsh words in Heidelberg's dressing room, as well.

Both teams went into the match with a poor recent record - Heidelberg having won only one of its past five games, and Croatia two. Against other finals sides, Croatia had failed to score in five matches.

Robert Markovac was listed on the original team sheet, but his name was crossed out, and replaced with that of Jozo Antolovic. Apparently Markovac had failed to come to terms with the club over the terms of a new contract, just before the match.

George Hannah was on the bench, along with Keith Adams.

Heidelberg had Winn back after suspension and Ian McKie returned after illness but Charlie Yankos was still out, serving the second week of a two-week suspension, and Scott Patterson was injured.

Left back Steve Marley set up Heidelberg's first-minute goal when he got past Josip Biskic on the wing, and crossed to the far post where Petersen, unmarked, headed home.

Heidelberg threatened again with a through ball to Winn. Goalkeeper Yanka Banovic went down in front of Winn to block it, and Tony Curcio cleared it upfield.

referee Chris Brambridge ruled it had been a fair shoulder charge, so no penalty was given.

Peter Lewis, who had been prominent in defence, decided to move across field in the 11th minute. From 38 metres, he belted the ball with the outside of his right foot, into the far side of goal, leaving Jeff Oliver stranded - probably the most spectacular goal I've seen this year - although Andrew Zinni's effort against Brisbane Lions at the same ground, ranks just as highly.

In the 21st minute, Peter Lewis took a long throw from the right, it came off heads and landed for Jim Campbell, whose first-time shot crashed against the crossbar.

Croatia was showing a lot of vim, and none more so than Tommy Cumming who was playing as striker. In the 25th minute, he robbed Don Macleod of the ball on the touchline, and headed goals - Oliver came out at him, so Cumming cut the ball square but Jim Campbell, who came storming in, had his shot blocked on the line.

Croatia's and Cumming's determination albeit with help from Heidelberg right back Ian McKie. The full back headed the ball down casually and looked quite confident in being able to play it back to Oliver, but Cumming took it away from him and headed into the box to face the goalkeeper, McKie, in despair, flattened Cumming from behind, and David Brogan scored from the penalty spot to put Croatia into the lead at 2-1.

Winn made a strong challenge for the ball just before half time, colliding with Banovic who needed treatment. Banovic had suffered slight concussion against Hellas three days earlier.

The second half was singularly unentertaining. In fact, the ball must have been out of play for 20 of the 45 minutes when you add it all up. The rest of the time, Heidelberg played the ball aimlessly, its midfield was largely ineffective and there was no cohesion between players up front.

Marley and Seledimic however, provided a glimmer of hope in the 62nd minute when Seledimic, sliding onto Marley's low drive into the box, sent the ball narrowly across goal.

Croatia continued to have the better chances, though. Jozo Antolovic launched onto a low corner from Gojevic, only to be foiled at point-blank range by Oliver.

And in the 85th minute, Brogan started a neat move through the middle, slipped the ball wide to Lewis who across it back in, but Brogan's shot hit the post!

Seledimic, at the other end, hit a powerful free kick, off the defensive wall and just past for a corner, while Winn headed over the bar after Macleod had nodded the ball square into the area.

Biskic had a powerful drive blocked at the near post, and five minutes from the end, Steve Tasios limped off the ground injured, to be replaced by John Metaxas.

IN FOCUS

What about Olympic, Mr. Arok?

Some of our leading coaches are prominently in the news right in the middle of the play-off series. For instance, Les Scheinflug, who seems safely ensconced with finalist Marconi after his stormy departure from the Soccerro scene.

At a media reception last week, Les proudly boasted that: "In my 25 years of soccer I haven't made a single enemy among members of the press."

True, no doubt, but I bet the likeable Les fervently wishes he could say the same for administrators.

Then there was his successor in the national job, Frank Arok, who fearlessly stepped forward to make a prediction regarding the final outcome of the Australian Conference play-offs. While declining to name the eventual winner he did forecast that the Grand Final will see the premiers pitted against the loser of last week's qualifying match, which would make it Hakoah v Marconi. I bet Olympic president Jim Petinella, also at the function had different ideas.

ABSENTEE SUPREMO

If sometimes opponents of mighty Hakoah feel themselves a little hard done by, next season they may find a golden opportunity to catch the pace-setters "off guard", so to speak.

For a period of at least four weeks the Blues will quite possibly be without the services of the main architect of their successes during the past half decade.

Coach Eddie Thomson has been approached to take charge of the Australian team which is to participate in the Maccabiah games in Israel.

The games — recognised by the International Olympic Council — will be held in July, with the participation of at least 16 countries, including Great Britain, Argentina, Brazil, West Germany, the United States and France among the favorites.

Thomson will start selecting the squad when he coaches the NSW team at the 52nd Australian Maccabi carnival in Perth during December.

His trip away next year may even be extended if Australia accepts an invitation to play a series of games in the USA prior to the tournament in Israel.

What's in it for Hakoah? My tip for soccer fans is, don't be surprised if in the wake of the tour the club has one or two Israelis in its line-up in 1986. This is a course of action which Hakoah fans have been clamouring for since the hugely successful appearance with the club of Gerry Chalid and Rafi Levy in the sixties.

EARLY SUCCESS

Blacktown City had unexpected success in reaching this year's play-offs and it was interesting to hear its secretary, Peter Thorne, vow last week that his club "is not going back" to any State League in the future.

A strong and determined team, with a veneer or skill in the person of Phil O'Connor, Casey De Bruin's men gave APIA a shake prior to bowing out of the elimination semi-final.

If they are to maintain a high rating, though, they need more success besides the twinkle-toed winger, but for the moment they can be well satisfied.

It is interesting to reflect, however, that this club, which is so determined to give the NSL a shake, was not among its most enthusiastic advocates in this past. Or was it just that their alleged views were misrepresented?

WORTH QUOTING

Definitely the quote of the year: "We were just kidding." — APIA president Nick Papallo in the wake of his team's 4-1 drubbing by Marconi in the last round.

EYES IN THE BACK

Hmm, Joe Watson better have eyes in the back of his head.

Coach Thompson has described up-and-coming youngster Peter Falconer as the man to take over Jinky Joe's mantle in a couple of years — and just when the little Scots wizard has become an established international.

Fearless forecasting, or just a bit of psychology, seeking to boost everyone's competitive spirit?

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Gary Phillips sets up Olympic win

Man of the Match:
GARY PHILLIPS
(Syd. Olympic)

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 2 (Phillips 76th, Koussas 102nd) MARCONI 1 (Lowe 55th), NSL semi-final at St George Stadium under extra time. Crowd 5565 (double header). Referee: Gary Power 8. Cautions: Henderson (M), Carter (M).

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier 8, — Rogers 7, Dakos 8, — Phillips 7, — Koussas 7, — Katholos 7, — Soper 6 (Koussas, 7, 71st), Theodorakopoulos 6, Kalantzis 6 (Lambropoulos 115th). Coach: Manfred Schaefer.

MARCONI: James 8, — Carter 8 (Carbone 116th), Henderson 8, Calderan 7, (Mariani 6, 71st), Spanos 7, Mason 7, McCulloch 6, Janovic 6, — Lowe 7, Brown 6, Sharpe 7. Coach: Les Scheinflug.

Les Scheinflug, the Marconi coach, was visibly upset by his team's loss to Sydney Olympic. "Olympic scored its winning goal after an offside decision was not given against them. It was not a metre or two metres, it was an easy five metre offside and the linesman kept his flag down," said Scheinflug at the post-match interview.

Gary Phillips, Olympic's midfielder, seemed to come out of nowhere to race towards goal in the 102nd minute. He was certainly metres past the Marconi backline when he received his pass but it is questionable that he was offside when a crossfield pass by Raskopoulos was played.

He faced James and with no angle available for shooting, he cut his pass back for Koussas to score. In fact the shot by Koussas appeared to be covered by Henderson but a divot caused the ball to "shoot" over Henderson's foot and into the net.

Phillips had a lot to smile about after the match. He completely outplayed Marconi's Tommy McCulloch and was the outstanding player of the match. His equaliser for Olympic with 14 minutes left on the clock was taken under a lot of pressure. He was through on the right from yet another pass by Raskopoulos to face James and looked to be at a very acute angle but his shot slipped past the keeper and into the net. James, who saved a penalty by Mike Coady in extra time and made some good pick-ups inside his own area, failed to have this shot covered but looked to collect.

Apart from these Olympic goals, there was certainly a

chance or two for the side to score a few more.

Calderan's tackle on Theodorakopoulos close to his line was judged to be a penalty but a fierce drive by Katholos rebounded off the crossbar.

With time running out in the extra period, James dived at the feet of Koussas to pull him down. Mick Coady took the shot, placed it well but James saved brilliantly.

It is difficult to assess what would have happened had Katholos scored with his penalty shot in the 68th. It would have made it 1-1 and it is certainly not fair to suggest that Olympic would have won by 4-1 had it converted its penalties, for nobody knows just how the match would have developed with the score standing at 1-1 in the 68th.

However, it is fair to note that this was a great match and both teams must be congratulated for their non-stop effort. Two hours of soccer, with chances coming thick and fast. Only three goals, but with two penalties and some half a dozen chances as well as some brilliant moves by both sides boring fast dished out for the curtain raiser.

An erroneous pass by Henderson found Phillips some 40 metres from Marconi's goal

early in the match. Phillip's cross was met by Kalantzis but the header flew just wide with James beaten.

David Lowe had his first opportunity in the 17th after a challenge by Gary Meier saw the ball drop at the feet of the Marconi striker. Lowe muffed it from a favorable position.

Some ten minutes later it was Tony Dakos who showed his class. With a quick swoop, he intercepted a Marconi pass and delivered his through ball for Chris Kalantzis to escape the attention of Paul Carter. With James to beat Kalantzis scooped his shot over the bar.

McCulloch could have given Marconi the lead in the 49th. He beat the offside trap to face Meier, then got around the Olympic keeper but Coady and Jennings were on hand to block his final attempt at goal.

With ten minutes gone in the second half, Mark Janovic

made an interception in mid-field and raced away from Raskopoulos to feed Carter on the right. Carter's cross was brilliantly volleyed home by Lowe and a slight deflection by a defender could not stop the ball from going in — 1-0 to Marconi.

Olympic was unlucky not to have done a little better during this period. A volley by Chris Kalantzis in the 59th minute beat James but found the crossbar in the way. Dakos collected the rebound but headed straight at James!

In the 68th, Katholos missed with his penalty shot, again the woodwork being in the way, then came that fine goal by Phillips to put the teams all square with 14 minutes of normal time remaining.

Bruce James made some fine saves in the last 10 minutes of the game and received a yellow card for handling outside the penalty area. This time Olympic had reason to feel unhappy. James dived at the feet of Koussas outside the area, Raskopoulos picked up the rebound to score but Olympic received a free kick on the edge of the area. Olympic claimed that the referee blew his whistle too soon. I suppose if he hadn't and the ball had run to a Marconi player, the question would have been — why didn't he?

Marconi could have snatched the winner in the closing stages of the match. David Lowe's brilliant effort in the 87th could have seen Marconi play Sydney Hakoah.

After beating two players on the run he cut his pass back for Brown but the tall striker hesi-



Gary Phillips of Sydney olympic

tated and Meier was quick to dive at his feet and save.

Gary Meier made yet another brilliant save from a Henderson free kick in the 89th to keep his side in the match.

In extra time Meier was beaten early. Peter Sharpe

made a fine run across the field, then chipped for Brown to face Meier. Brown went past the keeper and left-footed it over the bar!

Then came the controversial goal and the missed penalty to close the issue.

ALEX VESIC AT THE FIRST FINALS DOUBLE-HEADER IN SYDNEY

TONY GENOVESE THE SUPER SUB

Man of the Match:
STUART SELVAGE
Blacktown

APIA LEICHHARDT 3 (Butler 78th, Genovese 101st, Morsello 109th) BLACKTOWN CITY 1 (McLaughlin 90th) at St George Stadium. Crowd 5565. Referee: Richard Lorenc 9. Cautions: Brown, Bertogna, Pullen (APIA), Pointer, Bourke (B).

A.P.I.A.: Parks 8, — Bozanic 7, Bertogna 8, Pullen 7, Brown 6 (Zias 112th), — Butler 8, Gray 6, Treddick 6, — Bradley 6, Caban 5 (Genovese 80th — 81), Morsello 6. Coach: Fil Boticchio.

BLACKTOWN CITY: Hoare 7, — Wheatley 7, Dunleavy 6, Pointer 8, Skellern 7 (Larkin 100th), — Salvage 8, Bourke 6, Byrne 6, — McLaughlin 6, Sandy 6, O'Connor 7. Coach: Casey De Bruin.

APIA Leichhardt squeezed out Blacktown City in this tough contest. However, despite an enormous amount of effort put up by both teams, neither showed the class needed to cause Hakoah or Olympic any troubles.

It was a no-nonsense encounter with man-to-man marking so tight you would have trouble squeezing a blade between players on most occasions.

In such circumstances one needed players of exceptional skills to cause disruption. Phil O'Connor did manage to beat Mark Brown on a few occasions while Tony Morsello did cause some concern at the other end. And while O'Connor's skills almost provided Blacktown with match-winners, Tony Morsello is yet to learn that there are other players in the Park wearing the same outfit as he does. It is also important to suggest that



Stuart Salvage (Blacktown)

passing the ball to your team mate is not an offence!

Such over-zealous tackling and the over-use of long balls did not help matters. In fact the game was so dull that for almost the entire match one could hardly find a paragraph to write about. One of my colleagues, walking behind me in the Press Box, during the match was astonished that I had one Paragraph written after some 40 minutes of play. "You must be making notes on the yellow card situation or counting free kicks," he suggested as he glanced over my writing pad.

Well, there was an incident during the first hour of play, in fact very early in the match. Adam Sandy broke through on the right hand side, went to the line, then cut his pass back for Martin Bourke. Some 10 metres from goal and with Parks out of his goal, Burke looked set to score but his shot took a deflection off the diving Vic Bozanic and rolled past the post.

We had to wait till the 78th minute for another piece of drama. On this occasion and following a long throw-in, Bertogna headed towards Butler and the APIA captain waited no time in sidestepping it past Hoare for the opening goal of the match.

With time running out and APIA set for narrow win, Blacktown came forward through Michael McLaughlin on the left flank. McLaughlin

was looking for the space to cross, then changed his mind and turned onto his right foot to fire an accurate but weak drive towards the far corner of the net. In came Salvage to dive for it and attempt to beat Parks but missed, and the ball slipped past everyone to go in off the far post with the APIA keeper stranded.

Five minutes into extra time the Demons should have gone ahead. Adam Sandy slipped his shot past the advancing Parks but only managed to find the woodwork. Phil O'Connor chimed in to collect the rebound but his shot was smothered by Parks.

Two minutes later Adam Sandy was the recipient of a brilliant pass from Phil O'Connor but his shot went just wide!

Then came APIA's few minutes of glory. Tony Genovese, the man who replaced an out-of-touch Caban showed some speed to race past two Blacktown defenders before beating Barry Hoare from some 16 metres.

Genovese was on hand once again in the 109th to pick up a through ball by Terry Butler and ahead it went for Morsello to side-foot it past Hoare for the clincher.

Ian Gray could have made it look even worse for the Demons in the 114th but he missed an ordinary display by missing a sitter after receiving a good through ball from Bradley.

Wedgwood



***Prime Minister Mr Bob Hawke presents
the Wedgwood salad bowl to Joe
Watson of Sydney City, 1983 National
League Player of the Year.***

1. Peter Laumets
2. Bobby Russell
3. Alan Davidson
4. Steve Blair
5. Kris Kalifatidis
6. Carl Halford
7. Oscar Crino
8. Charlie Egan
10. Doug Brown
11. Ken Murphy
12. John Zamiaten
13. John Kanasalis
16. Con Kikias
17. Angie Postecoglou

MELBOURNE CROATIA

23. Yelko Banovic
2. Tony Currie
3. Shaun Parton
4. Keith Adams
5. George Harnish
6. Jozo Antolovic
7. Josip Blazic
8. Stave Gajovic
10. David Brown
11. Tommy Cumming
12. Drago Dumbic
13. Peter Lewis
14. Robert Markovic
15. Jim Campbell
1. Peter Blasby

HEIDELBERG

1. Jeff Oliver
2. Ian McKie
3. Steve Marley
4. Joe Angelo
5. Dan Macleod
6. Mika Valentinis
8. Stave Wim
10. Charlie Yankas
11. Scott Patterson
12. Mike Patterson
13. Stewart Stevenson
15. Nick Deligiannis
16. John Motoczas

SYD CITY HAKOAH

1. Tony Pazzano
2. Gerardo Gomez
3. Alex Robertson
4. Steve O'Connor
5. Jean-Paul de Marigny
6. Paul Key
7. Joe Watson
8. Murray Barnes
9. Grant Lee
10. John Keemina
11. Peter Falconer
12. Graeme Fletcher
13. Ean Rodriguez
14. Willie Murray
15. Keith Falconer
16. John Freeman

APIA

1. Bobby Parks
2. Victor Brown
3. Mark Brown
4. Arno Bortagne
5. Mark Pullen
6. Terry Butler
7. John Bradley
8. Ian Gray
9. Kerry Cahon
10. Peter Tradinick
11. Tony Morosello
12. Robert de Ceglie
13. Jim Zires
14. Tony Genovese
15. Gary van Egmond
16. Carlo Spina
17. Vince Celaguri

SYDNEY OLYMPIC

1. Gary Meier
2. Martyn Rogers
3. Graham Jennings
4. Tony Dikaz
5. Michael Coody
6. Gary Phillips
7. Peter Raskopoulos (Capt.)
8. Jim Pettkas
9. Marshall Soper
10. Peter Katsos
11. Mark Koussas
12. Terry Petalis
14. Robert Nazarov
15. Chris Kalantzis
16. Nick Theodoropoulos
17. Alex Lambropoulos

Champ for thirs

**KATY
COR**
with PETER

We can do it all over again

By KRIS KALIFATIDIS
of SM-Hellas

The fact that the National League doesn't recognise us as the champions of the National Conference is a bit hard to swallow to tell you the truth.

You go through 28 rounds, you win the league and you get no recognition. It doesn't make sense to me. A lot of the lads at Hellas feel that we've done enough to earn the championship. Nevertheless, now we've got to go out there and prove again that we're the best side in our league.

I think that Croatia is our biggest threat. I watched them playing Heidelberg last week and their all-round ability

impressed me. They're also a big occasion team and they've certainly got bags of talent. If they put it together on the day then they're going to be tough to beat.

I think our main strengths lie in midfield and up front. And, of course, we're a very well organised side. We all know what we have to do when we go out onto the park and I think that's been the big difference with Hellas this year.

Hellas always has had good players, guys like your Mackays and Armstrongs and many, many others. We've had the quality in the past but we've lacked the organisation and right now our organisation is incredible.

I think that the main



Kris Kalifatidis

barrier in our way is our attitude. If we accept that we've got to do it all over again after the great season we've had then we can win the finals.

I'm certainly not in favor of having a final five series to determine the championship. I like

to see soccer doing its own thing, not ripping off ideas from the VFL or from Rugby League.

Nevertheless, I'm very, very confident that we can win. We've got skill, we've got flair, we've got guys who can win the ball and we're very well organised.

It's champagne football in the finals! That message was hammered out loud and clear at Olympic Park in Melbourne and at St. George Stadium in Sydney and there's no doubt that the final five series is here to stay.

The Olympic V. Marconi clash last week went into extra time and take it from me, it was one hell of a game. Most people after the match said that it was the best game of football they'd seen in Sydney in the past decade. All those fans thirty for thrills are getting plenty.

Down in Melbourne, Brisbane Lions showed Juventus that the Banana Benders wouldn't be pushovers. That's what finals football is all about. It's a different ball game now and you can't just stroll out onto the park thinking that you've only got to go through the motions to win.

Everyone is eyeing a Grand Final berth and from Olympic's point of view, we all reckon that we'll be the

side to beat in the Grand Final. The crowd is right behind us and there's an incredible air of confidence among the Olympic players. And just imagine a national final between Olympic and South Melbourne Hellas. What a contest that would be!

Well done Paul!

Well, another season is about to end and this year's "Soccer Action" Boral Bricks award for the "NRL Player of the Year" was won by Green Gully's Paul Wade, who picked APIA's John Bradley right on the post.

Wade is a player who hasn't been heard of much but he's been very consistent this season and

that's the formula for success in such awards. Having won the same award in 1982, I know just how wrapped Paul will be. Well done, Paul!

As for the team of the year, well surely there are only three outstanding candidates - Olympic, South Melbourne Hellas and Sydney City Hakoah.

I know readers will accuse me of bias, but who cares? Olympic is the team

ALL THE FINAL NATIONAL C

BRISBANE LIONS 4 (McDonagh, J Stewart, R Stewart, Cairney) B U JUVENTUS 2 (Sweeney 2).

MELBOURNE CROATIA 2 (Lewis, Brogan pen)

HEIDELBERG-ALEXANDER 1 (Peterson).

HEIDELBERG-ALEXANDER 0 BRISBANE LIONS 0, Heidelberg won 3-2 on penalties.

S-M HELLAS 3 (Brown 2, Yzendoorn) MEL-

AUSTRALIAN

API-LEICHHARDT 3 (Butler, Genovese, Morosello) BLACKTOWN CITY 1 (McLaughlin) after extra time.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 2 (Phillips, Koussas) MARCONI 1 (Lowe) after extra time.

APIA-LEICHHARDT 3 (Bertogna, Colaguiri, Bozanic pen) MARCONI 3 (Sharne, Brown, Jankovics) after extra time, APIA won 4-3 on penalties.

NATIONAL

At Olympic Park, We
At St George Stadium,

APIA is the team to beat

By JOE WATSON
of Syd C. Hakoah

Well, the other lads and I like to think that we've already won the Australian Conference championship. Really, to find the national champion the league should have had us playing off with South Melbourne Hellas on a home and away basis to settle the issue.

I mean, we're the sides that finished on top after 28 rounds. And what happens if we bomb out in the finals? A couple of bad games and you're an also-ran. That's ridiculous. It should be first past the post for the championship.

But don't get me wrong. I think the top five series is a good idea. But call it something else other than the championship. Call the

winners the premiers or something like that and leave the championship to the top team at the end of the league season.

To tell you the truth, we haven't been playing all that well towards the end of the season. We went about five games on the trot without really putting it together but we're coming out of that spell now. You can tell because you start to create more chances and you can feel things get-



Joe Watson

ting back on the right track.

I honestly think that APIA is the team to beat. They've got a good squad of players and a good blend between ball winners, skilful players and a couple of good forwards, and they certainly can play on their day.

I don't mind playing against Olympic. In fact, I'm pretty confident of beating them. It's enjoyable playing against them because they like to go forward and the games always are a lot more open than when you play against a lot of the other sides. Yes, I think we can beat Olympic.

With a wee bit of luck it'll be Croatia's title

By TOMMY CUMMING
of Melbourne Croatia

With just a wee bit of luck we can win the finals series. I've got no doubts that we're as good as any side in the competition on an individual basis. It's just a matter of all our lads pressing sides all over the park - from the back, to the midfield and up front.

There have been a few times recently when just a few blais have been pressing opponents and you end up looking stupid but last Wednesday against Heidelberg all the lads pressured and you saw what happened as a result.

Obviously Hellas is the side to beat. They're well coached and all the Hellas players know what's expected of them. Even when they don't perform well, Hellas still can get a result. Hellas pressure you well and it really goes without saying that they've got good players too.

To me, this final five thing is more like a cup competition. I regard Hellas as the league champions because they've finished on top after a lengthy season but having said that, the rules concerning how the championship was to be won this year were laid down early and really, anyone high up at Hellas who didn't understand that that was the case hasn't got a leg to stand on. I mean, like it or not, and I don't think it's a good idea, the NSL has decided to make the final five series the way of choosing the champion team. That's the way it is and none of us can change that.

We're a good side and I think that we can beat Hellas. It's just a matter of getting our strongest team onto the park and all the lads playing for each other and we'll get there.

We've beaten Heidelberg before and we can beat them again.

I'm not so sure that the final five idea will work with the fans. Certainly, from a player's point of view, as I've said before, we regard this as more of a cup competition.

And remember, Croatia's a great cup side. We'll do alright, don't worry about that.

By N
THEODORAK
Of Syd
Olymp

We'll win the Conference top 5 mate. No swans don't really care Melbourne side of the national final we'll win that too. We are playing right now, it's 1-1. There isn't a side present that can in the soccer day.

I've got no doubt we play Sydney C again it'll be a physical Hakoah will be a gets physical but it that kind of stuff as play them.

But, having said that them too. They're a very They've got good experienced players, m have proven them wearing the green i they'll be the side i the Australian Conf final.

All we've got to d trate on playing so what our coach Ma far said in "Soccer week and he's spot



Tommy Cumming (left) - scoring against Hellas goalkeeper Peter Laumets.

Magne football the fans y for thrills



mine, Melita coach Raul Blanco, who has done everything possible with the players at his disposal. One minute Melita was in the top five, the next it found itself relegated.

Melita, of course, was in its first year in the NSL and its young squad has bags of potential.

There's been a bit of talk about Melita shelving its plans to build a new grandstand now that it's gone back to the NSW State League but I certainly hope that the club goes ahead and builds. We need great facilities in Australian soccer and if Melita builds the grandstand it will have contributed a lot to the sport in this country.

Anyway, I'm very, very confident that Melita can hit back and show everyone that it still is a great club.

It has caught the imagination of the soccer public of Australia. Just look at the news we've pulled in recently, especially during our game winning streak. I think a record that other Hellenic Hakoah boast this season.

Melita to hit back

What a shame it is to see Melita Eagles relegated

S MATCHES CONFERENCE

OURNE CROATIA 2 (Gojevic, Cumming) after extra time.

MELBOURNE CROATIA v HEIDELBERG-ALEXANDER at Olympic Park No 1 tonight (Wednesday) 8.30.

HELLAS v winner of Croatia/Heidelberg (grand final), Olympic Park, Sunday 3 pm.

CONFERENCE

SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH 1 (Gomez) SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1 (Katholos) after extra time, Hakoah on 4-2 on penalties.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC v APIA-LEICHHARDT at St George Stadium tonight (Wednesday), 7.30.

SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH v winner of Olympic/APIA (grand final) at St George Stadium, Sunday, 3 pm.

L FINAL

Wednesday, October 24.
Sunday, October 28.

There isn't a side that matches Olympic

stralian series, And I which play in secure

to well credible. found at watch us ment. at when Hakoah ame. side that can take ve'll out-

I respect side. ers, ex- of whom sa when I beat in ce grand concern. That's d Schae- kon" last

When we beat Marconi last week, it was the best match I'd been in all my life.

It was absolutely fantastic. The game was so fast, so open and so exciting. And the Greek fans were great.

They got right behind us, even when Peter Katholos missed a penalty.

The fans kept shouting for us and we responded to give them the result they wanted.

All the players were pretty tired after the game because it was such a tremendous spectacle.

But that's the way we're playing right now - fast, open, en-

tertaining soccer. And that's what the fans want to see.

I'm not too worried if we face APIA.

We've taken five out of a possible six points from them already this year.

We had the same record against Marconi before last week's final game and really, I can't see us getting beaten in the grand final.

As for the finals series, I think it's a great thing.

I mean, we can't really call ourselves national champions after we beat Sydney Hakoah.

We'll have to beat a Melbourne side too to earn that label and we'll do it.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC

v. SC-Hakoah 1-1, Kalantzis
v. St. Geo Budapest 2-1, Theodorakopoulos, Soper
v. Melita Eagles 3-0, Theodorakopoulos 2, Raskopoulos
v. APIA 2-0, Koussas, Katholos
v. Blacktown 6-1, Koussas 3, Katholos, Theodorakopoulos, Kalantzis
v. Marconi 4-2, Kalantzis 2, Koussas, Katholos pen
v. Marconi 1-0, Katholos pen
v. Brisbane City 4-0, Soper, Koussas 2, Kalantzis
v. Penrith 1-0, Patikas
v. Wollongong 3-0, Kalantzis, Patikas
v. Melb. Croatia 1-2, Patikas
v. SC-Hakoah 3-4, Raskopoulos, Patikas, Dakos
v. Syd. Croatia 2-0, Patikas 2
v. Canberra 1-1, Theodorakopoulos
v. St. Geo Budapest 2-2, Patikas, Theodorakopoulos
v. APIA 1-1, Kalantzis
v. Melita Eagles 0-0
v. APIA 4-2, Soper, Theodorakopoulos, Patikas, Katholos pen
v. Blacktown 2-0, Katholos 2 ind pen
v. Marconi 2-2, Theodorakopoulos, Koussas
v. Newc-Rosebud 5-1, Patikas 2, Lambropoulos, Koussas, Theodorakopoulos
v. Melb. Croatia 1-3, Katholos
v. Penrith 2-0, Katholos 2
v. Wollongong 3-0, Katholos 2, Soper
v. SC-Hakoah 1-2, Katholos
v. Syd. Croatia 3-1, Soper 3
v. Brisbane Lions 1-1, Soper
v. St. Geo Budapest 0-0

LEAGUE SCORERS

13. Katholos
9. Theodorakopoulos, Koussas, Patikas
8. Soper
7. Kalantzis
2. Raskopoulos
1. Patikas, Dakos, Lambropoulos

NATIONAL CUP

v. Canberra 1-2, Phillips
v. Melita Eagles 0-1
v. Penrith 0-3

AMPOL CUP

v. Blacktown National 6-1, Patikas 2, Soper 2, Agostino o.g.v. Sydney Croatia 0-1

MOST NSL GOALS

50 Soper
37 Koussas
35 Katholos

SOUTH MELB HELLAS

v. Melbourne Croatia 3-0, Brown 2 incl. pen., Egan
v. H-berg-Alexander 2-0, Halford, Brown
v. Brisbane Lions 0-0
v. AC-Juventus 3-2, Brown, Yzendoorn, Davidson
v. Melb. Croatia 1-0, Egan
v. Footscray JUST 3-0, Crino 2, Brown
v. Prest. Makedonia 1-0, Brown
v. George Cross 2-1, Brown 2
v. BU-Juventus 1-0, Egan
v. W. Adel. Hellas 1-3, Brown
v. Syd. City Hakoah 0-0
v. Newc-Rosebud 7-0, Egan 4, Brown, Davidson, Blair
v. Footh JUST 2-1, Egan, Murphy
v. Green Gully 2-1, Brown, Davidson
v. H-berg-Alexander 2-0, Murphy, Crino
v. W. Adel. Hellas 2-1, Brown, Murphy
v. Brisb. City 0-1
v. AC-Juventus 1-0, Brown
v. Melb Croatia 2-0, Brown 2
v. Makedonia 1-2, Halford
v. George Cross 0-1
v. SC-Hakoah 0-0
v. BU-Juventus 1-2, Lewis
v. W. Adel Hellas 4-0, Brown 2, Blair, Lewis
v. Canberra 1-3, Brown
v. Footscray JUST 2-2, Egan, Yzendoorn
v. Green Gully 2-0, Brown 2
v. H-berg Alexander 2-0, Crino, Yzendoorn

LEAGUE SCORERS

20. Brown
9. Egan
4. Crino
3. Yzendoorn, Davidson, Murphy
2. Halford, Blair, Lewis

NATIONAL CUP

v. Footh JUST 1-0, Yzendoorn
v. George Cross 1-1, Karantonis
v. BU-Juventus 0-0

BUFFALO GOLD CUP

v. Green Gully 1-0, Murphy
v. Footh JUST 1-0, Yzendoorn
v. Croydon 2-0, Brown, French o.g.
v. Makedonia 0-0
v. Melb Croatia (final) 3-1, Brown, Halford, Crino

MOST NSL GOALS

54 Brown
40 Egan
15. Yzendoorn

SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH

v. Sydney Olympic 1-1, Gomez
v. Melita Eagles 0-0, O'Connor 2, P. Falconer, Barnes, Lee, Foxman
v. St. Geo Budapest 0-1
v. Marconi 1-1, P. Falconer
v. Brisbane City 3-1, Kosmina 2, Lee
v. APIA 2-1, Gomez 2
v. Blacktown 1-1, Barnes, Lee, Kosmina, Kay
v. APIA 1-2, Kosmina
v. Canberra 1-0, Kosmina pen
v. Sydney Croatia 1-1, O'Connor
v. SM-Hellas 0-0
v. Sydney Olympic 4-3, Lee 2, Rodrigues, O'Connor
v. Penrith 0-0
v. Wollongong 5-0, Barnes, Fletcher, Gomez, Green o.g., Watson
v. Melita Eagles 2-0, Lee, Kosmina
v. Melita Eagles 2-0, Kosmina 2
v. St. George Budapest 4-1, Kosmina 3, Kay
v. Newcastle-Rosebud 8-1, Fletcher 3, Kosmina 3, Gomez, Kay
v. Marconi 1-1, Fletcher 2, Kosmina
v. Brisbane Lions 2-0, Gomez, Lee
v. APIA 1-2, Murrey
v. Blacktown 4-1, Murrey 2, Kosmina, Dunleavy o.g.
v. SM-Hellas 0-0
v. Sydney Croatia 5-0, Lee, Boden, Fletcher, Murrey, Rodrigues
v. Sydney Olympic 2-1, Kosmina, Barnes
v. Penrith 1-1, Kosmina
v. Wollongong 3-1, Kosmina 2, Boden
v. Blacktown 1-1, Murrey

LEAGUE SCORERS

20. Kosmina 3, Kay
8. Lee 2, P. Falconer, Rodrigues, Boden
6. Gomez 1, Foxman, Watson
5. Murrey
4. O'Connor, Barnes

NATIONAL CUP

v. AC-Juventus 0-0
v. Newc-Rosebud 0-3
v. Blacktown 3-0, Bortolico, Murrey pen., Fletcher
v. WA-Hellas 0-0

AMPOL CUP

v. Canterbury 2-1, Gomez, Fletcher
v. APIA 2-1, Fletcher 2
v. Marconi 1-0, Fletcher
v. St. Geo Budapest 1-3 (final), Boden

MOST NSL GOALS

93. Kosmina 24. Watson
53. Barnes

MELBOURNE CROATIA

v. SM-Hellas 0-3
v. BU-Juventus 0-1
v. Green Gully 1-0, Biskic
v. Footscray JUST 3-1, Markovac, Lewis, Cumming
v. SM-Hellas 0-1
v. H-berg-Alexander 0-2
v. Newc-Rosebud 1-1, Brogan pen
v. WA-Hellas 4-0, Markovac, Cumming, Biskic, Campbell
v. H-berg Alexander 0-0
v. Makedonia 3-1, Campbell, Antolovic, Gojevic
v. Sydney Olympic 2-1, Biskic, Markovac
v. George Cross 0-0
v. Brisbane City 1-0, Markovac
v. AC-Juventus 2-0, Gojevic, Cumming
v. BU-Juventus 3-0, Brogan 2, Antolovic
v. Makedonia 1-0, Antolovic
v. Green Gully 1-0, Brogan
v. Footscray JUST 0-0
v. SM-Hellas 0-2
v. Canberra 0-3
v. WA-Hellas 1-1, Brogan
v. Sydney Olympic 3-1, Bojevic, Hannah, Brogan
v. H-berg-Alexander 2-5, Gojevic, Cumming
v. Makedonia 2-2, Biskic, Gojevic
v. George Cross 1-0, Campbell, Gojevic
v. Brisbane Lions 2-2, Gojevic, Cumming
v. AC-Juventus 3-2, Brogan, Biskic, Cumming
v. BU-Juventus 1-2, Markovac

LEAGUE SCORERS

7. Gojevic, Brogan
6. Cumming
5. Biskic, Markovac
3. Campbell, Antolovic
1. Lewis, Hannah

NATIONAL CUP

v. Makedonia 2-1, Parton, Markovac
v. Green Gully 4-3, Brogan 3, Parton
v. H-berg Alexander 4-1, Markovac 2, Biskic, Cumming
v. Brisbane Lions 2-1, Brogan 2
v. Footscray JUST 1-0, Cumming
v. Newc-Rosebud (final) 0-1

BUFFALO GOLD CUP

v. Makedonia 3-0, Brogan, Cumming, Parton
v. BU-Juventus 1-1, Parton
v. H-berg Alexander 0-0
v. Footscray JUST 4-0, Brogan 3, Biskic
v. SM-Hellas (final) 1-3, Cumming

MOST NSL GOALS

55. Campbell

APIA-LEICHHARDT

v. Marconi 1-4, DeCeglie
v. Wollongong 1-1, Bradley
v. Penrith 3-0, Morsello, Gray, Tredinnick
v. Sydney Olympic 0-2
v. Sydney Croatia 0-0
v. SC-Hakoah 1-2, Caban
v. Brisbane Lions 0-1
v. SC-Hakoah 2-1, Bozanic 2
v. Marconi 3-3, Catlin, Caban, DeCeglie
v. St. Geo Budapest 3-2, Caban, Morsello, Bertogna
v. H-berg-Alexander 0-1
v. Blacktown 2-2, Bradley, Dunleavy o.g.
v. Canberra 2-0, Caban, DeCeglie
v. Melita Eagles 2-1, Bradley, Bozanic
v. Wollongong 3-0, Gray, Caban, Bradley
v. Sydney Olympic 1-1, Bradley
v. Penrith 1-0, Gray
v. Sydney Olympic 2-4, Bozanic pen, Gray
v. Sydney Croatia 0-1
v. SC-Hakoah 2-1, Morsello 2
v. Brisbane City 0-0
v. WA-Hellas 4-1, Bradley 2, Tredinnick, Caban
v. Marconi 3-1, Gray, Tredinnick, Bradley
v. St. Geo Budapest 2-2, Bradley 2
v. Blacktown 2-1, Tredinnick, Morsello
v. Newc. KB Ud 1-1, Bradley
v. Melita Eagles 1-2, Caban
v. Marconi 1-0, Gray

LEAGUE SCORERS

11. Bradley
7. Caban
5. Morsello, Gray
4. Bozanic, Tredinnick
3. DeCeglie
1. Catlin, Bertogna

NATIONAL CUP

v. Newc-Rosebud 0-0, Genovese
v. St. Geo Budapest 2-0, DeCeglie, Morsello
v. Newc-Rosebud 0-2
v. Penrith 2-0, Caban 2
v. Wollongong 1-0, Caban

AMPOL CUP

v. Wollongong 2-1, DeCeglie, Gray
v. SC-Hakoah 1-2, Giampacio

MOST NSL GOALS

34. Bradley
19. Morsello
15. Tredinnick

HEIDELBERG-ALEXANDER

v. BU-Juventus 1-0, Valentine
v. SM-Hellas 0-2
v. Canberra 0-1
v. W. Adel. Hellas 1-1, Tasios
v. BU-Juventus 1-5, Yankos pen
v. Melb. Croatia 2-0, Winn 2
v. Footscray JUST 1-0, Valentine
v. Green Gully 0-0
v. Melb Croatia 0-0
v. AC-Juventus 1-0, Selemidis
v. APIA 1-0, Patterson
v. Brisb. City 2-0, Stevenson, Winn
v. Makedonia 3-1, Tzintzis
v. George Cross 1-1, Tzintzis
v. SM-Hellas 0-2
v. BU-Juventus 3-0, Yankos pen., Tzintzis, Petersen
v. Newc-Rosebud 2-1, Valentine, Patterson pen
v. WA-Hellas 1-0, Patterson
v. BU-Juventus 2-3, Patterson pen., Winn
v. Footscray JUST 3-0, Selemidis, Patterson, Tzintzis
v. Green Gully 1-1, Wade own goal
v. Canberra 2-1, Patterson, Winn
v. Melb Croatia 5-2, Winn 4, Patterson pen
v. AC-Juventus 1-1, Patterson
v. Brisb. Lions 3-1, Selemidis, Vagias, Patterson
v. Makedonia 0-1
v. George Cross 1-1, Patterson pen
v. SM-Hellas 0-2

LEAGUE SCORERS

11. Winn
9. Patterson
3. Selemidis, Tzintzis, Valentine
2. Yankos, Petersen
1. Tasios, Stevenson, Vagias

NATIONAL CUP

v. Makedonia 2-0, Patterson, Tzintzis
v. Green Gully 2-1, Tzintzis, Winn
v. Melb Croatia 1-4, Patterson

BUFFALO GOLD CUP

v. BU-Juventus 1-1, Tzintzis
v. Makedonia 0-0
v. Melb Croatia 0-0

MOST NSL GOALS

16. Winn
10. Patterson, Selemidis



Nick Theodorakopoulos

Macleod makes strikers shudder

They call him the hard man of Heidelberg.

Don Macleod (seen at right challenging Brisbane Lions players), is noted for his strength in the tackle and in the air.

When Macleod hits you, you stay hit. That's why most NSL forwards shudder at the prospect of coming up against Heidelberg's stopper.

Macleod certainly is one of the tough guys of the NSL.



Ansett.

**The National
League's
Official Airline**

Przybyla, Smith set to break deadlock

Our VSF Travel Club award for leading scorer in the 1984 Victorian State League could be decided on Sunday at Kim Reserve when Box Hill and Polonia clash in the quarter-finals of the Dockerty Cup.

Leading candidates Steve Smith of Box Hill and Janusz Przybyla of Polonia are tied on 26 goals

each. They both finished with 23 goals at the end of the league season so we decided to include all State League Cup and Dockerty

Cup goals to break the deadlock.

Przybyla scored once in the State League Cup and twice in the Dockerty Cup

Dockerty Cup quarter-finals on Sunday.

At Kim Reserve

Fawkner v St Albans Dinamo at 1 pm, followed by Box Hill v Polonia.

At Jubilee Park

Western Suburbs v Croydon at 1 pm, followed by Thomastown v Falcons.



Polonia striker Janusz Przybyla



Craig Mackenzie

Culina, on one leg, inspires St Albans win



Ken Kontra

WILHELMINA 3 (Burton 5th, Stewart 35th and 89th) ST ALBANS DINAMO 3 (Brkljacic penalty 38th, Radman 68th, Culina 76th). St Albans won 6-5 on penalties.

Cautions: Verniers, Fryatt, Murray (Wilhelmina)

Referee: Frank Hugh 7.

Penalty scorers: St Albans — Brkljacic, Bozic, Culina, Kuzman, Ramljak, Pavlovic; Wilhelmina — Storm, Burton, Fryatta, Wells, Stewart

Without rising to great heights, this was quite an entertaining encounter. Either team could have (and should have) won during ordinary playing time, with Wilhelmina having the upper hand in the first half, enjoying a 2-0 lead at one stage, and St Albans coming back strongly in the second half, giving away a 3-2 lead a minute before the final whistle.

Well performed Branko Culina gave one of the most amazing exhibitions I have ever seen. He sustained an injury in the first 10 minutes, following a hard but legitimate tackle, and looked like a certain candidate for an early shower.

Branko, however, hobbled on regardless, and despite his discomfort caused some problems for the opposition, bouncing a curling free-kick off the crossbar in the 68th minute, scoring a fine goal in the 76th, and slotting away his penalty during the penalty shootout at the end of the game. Not a bad effort on one leg!

Wilhelmina had by far the better of the early exchanges, and took an early lead in the fifth minute, when Burton headed Ken Stewart's corner firmly into the back of the net. Wilhelmina went further ahead, due to a defensive error in the 35th minute. Eddie Kuzman tried to make something out of nothing and gave a ball away in his defensive third by squaring the ball to Greg Warszawski.

Warszawski knocked the ball to Robert Lange at the far post and he squared it for Ken Stewart to convert from five metres.

Up to this point, Wilhelmina's offside trap was working

to perfection, frustrating forward thrusts by St Albans on many occasions.

In the 38th minute, however, George Radman found a gap in the square Wilhelmina defence, and keeper Stuart Lee had to make a desperate save outside the penalty area. Following the resultant free kick, Mark Fryatt fouled Culina inside the area, and Zdenko Brkljacic scored easily from the spot.

St Albans gradually took control in midfield, with Danny Dacic prominent on the left, and Zdenko Brkljacic doing his bit in the middle. Sweeper Marty Bozic also made several penetrating runs and Wilhelmina looked more and more vulnerable as the game progressed.

The equaliser finally came in the 68th minute. Kadman outstripped the square Wilhelmina backline and beat the advancing Stuart Lee with ease. Eight minutes after Branko Culina walked past two defenders and his shot found the back of the net just inside the upright.

It looked curtains for Wilhelmina, but a mix-up between keeper Danny Laock and stopper Ante Kustura allowed Ken Stewart to nip in and force the match into extra time.

No goals were scored during extra time, although Wilhelmina looked much fitter and stronger during this period.

Ron Verniers missed with his penalty, and Vinko Pavlovic coolly slotted away his to clinch victory for St Albans.

BOX HILL 4 (Smith 27th, 65th and 90th, Underwood 70th) LALOR 0.

Cautions: Hennessey, Priestley, Verechia (Box Hill) Marjovits (Lalor)

Referee: Evan Venlos 7.

It took Box Hill time to subdue underdog Lalor in a match which was decided only midway through the second half, when two quick Box Hill goals put the issue beyond the reach of its less-fancied opponents.

Up to that stage, although the Hillmen had more possession, the Macedonian-sponsored team fought well and by no means did the State League side have a mortgage on the result.

Bill Fleming medalist Steve Smith celebrated winning this coveted award by scoring a fine hat-trick. Smith certainly knows how to get into a scoring position. In addition to the three goals he scored, with a bit of luck he could have had another three or four.

Lalor had Tony Jolevski shadowing Smith in the first half without much success, and his second half replacement Bogi Karevski could not con-



Branko Culina



Paul Priestley

tain Box Hill's scoring machine either.

Smith's first goal came in the 27th minute. Sweeper Con Moulas held the ball a fraction too long. Smith robbed him and had no trouble in beating keeper Momcilo Trajceviski with a lot shot.

Three minutes from half time Sean Harrison made a mess of a harmless looking cross, and had to dive backwards to prevent the ball entering the net for the equaliser. This, and a powerful shot by Bill Popovski, tipped over the bar by Harrison in the ninth minute were Lalor's best chances in the first half.

Smith had three attempts well saved by Trajceviski, before he finished off the best move of the match in the 65th minute.

Ian Roodhouse found Verechia with a fine pass, he laid it off first-time for Smith, who made no mistake from 10 metres.

Five minutes later substitute Rafael Underwood finished off a good run with a sizzling shot from 20 metres to give Box Hill an unassailable lead.

Just before the final whistle, Smith completed his hat-trick from a square ball from Paul Priestley.

Although the outcome was never in doubt after Box Hill's second goal, Lalor gave a good account of itself, and despite the score, was not disgraced.

ALL MATCH DETAILS

AT EGAN LEE RESERVE

BOX HILL 4 (Smith 27th, 65th & 90th, Underwood 70th) LALOR 0.

BOX HILL: Harrison 7, McPhee 7, Brownlie 8, Brooks 8, A. Roodhouse 7, Azopardi 7 (Verechia 80th), I. Roodhouse 8, Hughes 7, Hennessey 8 (Underwood half time). — **Priestley 8, Smith 9, Coach:** Bill Murray.

LALOR: Trajceviski 8, Morihovits 7, Stojanovski 8, Jolevski 7, (Karevski half time), 7, Moulas 7, Kourinis 6, Georgievski 6, (Nikolovski 72nd), Jolevski 7, Tasevski 7, Popovski 8, Jolevski 8. **Coach:** George Jolevski.

RINGWOOD CITY WILHELMINA 3 (Burton 5th, Stewart 35th & 89th) ST ALBANS DINAMO 3 (Brkljacic penalty 38th, Radman 68th, Culina 76th). St Albans won 6-5 on penalties.

WILHELMINA: Lee 7 — Wemyss 5 (Whyte 30th 6) Remmers 7, Murray 7, Verniers 7, Fryatt 7, Storm 6, Burton 8, Lange 7 (Wells 10th min. of extra time), Warszawski 8, Stewart 8. **Coach:** Cor Teu.

ST ALBANS: Laock 7, Kuzman 6, Kustura 7, Bozic 8, Ramljak 7, Rastovic 7, Pavlovic 6, Brkljacic 8, Dacic 8, Radman 7, Culina 8. **Coach:** Joe Spoljar.

AT SMITH RESERVE

NORTHCOTE 1 (Katsakidis 5th) WESTERN SUBURBS 2 (Filippas 28th, Lazopoulos 65th).

NORTHCOTE: Gannopoulos 7 — I. Constantinou 8, Katsakidis 8, Bockis 8, Zebaki 8, Belkari 5, Toro 7, Wilson 6 (Inj), Kourmenos 6th, Dionisopoulos 7, P. Constantinou 6, Micovski 7. **Coach:** Jimmy Pyrgolis.

WESTERN SUBURBS: Tachiris 6, Mathieu 6, Howe 6, Dimovski 7, Pavlidis 6 (Dilbert 83rd), Coyle 6, Kakantonia 6, Mussel 6, Lazopoulos 8 (Inj), Ogninis 80th, Stenson 7, Filippas 7. **Coach:** Jimmy Cordis.

FAWKNER 6 (MacLeod 35th, 60th, Garvey 15th, Palinkas 35th, Tuffield 55th, Bannan 64th) KARINGAL UNITED 0.

FAWKNER: Targini 7 (Noble 55th, 7) — Angele 7, Fattore 7, MacLeod 7, Hobson 7, Bannan 7, Boyle 7, Lia 7, Palinkas 8, Tuffield 8, Garvey 8. **Coach:** Gus MacLeod.

KARINGAL UNITED: Dillon 6 — Wright 7, Leenstra 4, Plaskett 6, K. Moore 9, Passa 5 (Doolson 80th), Towers 6, McDonagh 5 (Miller H.T. 7), Symonds 8, Burrough 6, M. Moore 6. **Coach:** Nival Bevis.

AT WARATHA RESERVE

ALTONA GATE 1 (Ristovski 55th) MORWELL FALCONS 5 (Atkinson 15th, 25th, 85th, O'Callaghan 38th, own goal 78th).

ALTONA GATE: Barakos 6, Zrajkowski 8 (Inj), Talevski 56th, Seiro 5, Markovski 6, Dimovski 2 — Stojcovski 6, Gelevski 9, Grozdanovski 5, Ristovski 6 — Veljenovski 5 (Presliki 56th), Beller 8. **Coach:** Steve Trajkovski.

MORWELL FALCONS: Whiteside 7 (Eacott 75th), Coad 7, Bruns 8, Higham 8, Train 8, Cassar 7, Moore 8, MacLaren 7, Kent 7, Atkinson 9, O'Callaghan 8 (Lae 75th). **Coach:** Jimmy Dunne.

THOMASTOWN 1 (DIMARTINO penalty 46th) DOVE-TON 0.

THOMASTOWN: Rapone 8 — DiBartolino 7 (Inj), Dalls 70th, Costantino 8, Acceli 7, Constantinou 7, Watters 7, B. Coyle 8, DiMartino 9, Comar 8, Lalic 7, Flaherty 7 (Inj), Fragile 75th. **Coach:** Joe Wilson.

DOVE-TON: Radov 7, Dikey 6, Gadsby 7, Lowe 8, Fitzpatrick 6, Kaiser (Inj), McLeod 20th, 8), Buchanan 7, Edmondson 5, Lennon 6, Watson 8, Nelson 6. **Coach:** Ian Williamson.

AT LAURA DOUGLAS RESERVE

CROYDON 3 (Brewerton 38th, Lucio Salsi 65th, French 70th) BROADMEADOWS 0.

CROYDON: Kastner 7, Brown 8, Singleton 8, Marshall 8, Ormond 7, Brewerton 7, Kerr 7, Griffith 7 (Lucio Salsi 85th), Kiley 7, French 8, Lucio Salsi 8 (Inj), Valais 75th. **Coach:** Peter Orlerton.

BROADMEADOWS: Grech 6, Atanasovski 5, Donaldson 7, Ciantar 5, Acosta 7, Smart 6 (Sander 70th), Horfinkak 6, Ellis 7, Anderson 6 (Hibic 56th), Blair 7, Stoikos 7. **Coach:** Jimmy McIntyre.

POLOIA 3 (Przybyla penalty 60th, 80th, Tromt 70th) SOUTH OAKLEIGH 2 (Stergiou 30th, 55th).

POLOIA: Lukac 4 — Upiarski 7, Gardiner 7, Mitten 7, Smolarek 8, G. Czepnik 4 (Vongse 60th), Tromt 8, Gibson 6, Petrov 4 (Kolaric H.T. 6), Glider 7, Przybyla 6. **Coach:** John Gardiner.

SOUTH OAKLEIGH: Taldes 9, Barasos 7, Stojanovski 8, E. Pahlins 6, Kritsilidis 7, Kanavas 7, Kontokostas 8, Karapostas 8, Guic 7, Stergiou 8, Markou 7 (Leonardos 80th). **Coach:** John Kennedy.

so far while Smith notched a hat-trick last weekend in Box Hill's 4-0 Dockerty Cup win over Metro Leaguers Lalor United.

The quarter-finals of the Dockerty Cup will be played as double-headers at Kim Reserve and Jubilee Park.

The first match at Kim Reserve between Fawkner and St Albans Dinamo at 1 pm should provide Fawkner with a berth in the semis.

Dinamo's defence doesn't look strong enough to cope with Fawkner forwards Joe Palinkas, Ian Tuffield and Neil Garvey. No doubt Dinamo coach Joe Spoljar will use tall stopper George Radman to curb Tuffield's renowned heading power but Fawkner will start favorite and should triumph.

The second match will be the highlight of the cup round. And I'm not brave enough to predict the outcome.

Box Hill coach Bill Murray is likely to stick to the Smith-Paul Priestley striking partnership which

powered the Hillmen home last Sunday and Danny McCluskey should be back in the Polonia line-up to take over as stopper from Noel Mitten, who filled that gap against South Oakleigh last weekend.

The first game at Jubilee Park between Western Suburbs and Croydon at 1 pm should be a cliff-hanger.

Suburbs probably will start favorite but Croydon coach Peter Orlerton has a lot of good players at his disposal and it won't surprise to see this match go into extra time.

Thomastown squares up to State League champ and State League Cup winner Morwell Falcons in the second match at Jubilee Park and doesn't look like having much of a chance. But try to tell the Thomastown camp that!

I spoke to a couple of Thomastown officials last weekend and they boasted that they'd knock off Falcons without too much bother. If they're right, it will be the shock of the season.

METRO TOP FOUR

This Saturday's games in the VSF Centenary Top Four competition for the Metropolitan Leagues:

DIVISION ONE

At Partridge Reserve, Lalor: Thomastown v North Dandenong at 1 pm, followed by Springvale City v Melbourne.

DIVISION TWO

At Dendy Park, Brighton: Caulfield City v South Oakleigh at 1 pm, followed by Morrimon v Sandringham.

DIVISION THREE

At W.T. Burrage Reserve, Newborough: Royal Richmond v Essendon Triestina at 1 pm, followed by Hamlyn Rangers v Yallourn.

DIVISION FOUR

At Lot 16, Perry Road, Keysborough: Springvale United v Clifton Hill at 1 pm, followed by Yarraville v East Brunswick.

More money for Monaro?

By **PETER WINDSOR**

Prospective National League side Inter-Monaro is within an ace of negotiating new sponsorship packages — and formally submitting its application for NSL membership.

Club officials, including president, Laurie Pastrello, met NSL officials on Wednesday for preliminary talks on their entry to the NSL.

Much, however, still hinges on negotiations for increased sponsorship — and a grant from the NSW State Government to assist with ground improvements.

Club sources said if the club did enter the NSL, it would immediately strengthen its squad.

Negotiations with at least four new players were already well in hand.

Given Monaro's phenomenal success in the State League this season, and the extent of ground improvements already completed, it is hard to imagine it not attracting increased sponsorship.

Many believe that ReadyMix Concrete will continue, in an even bigger way, as the club's principal sponsor.

Its name has been synonymous with the Monaro club for several seasons.

Withe, Hateley

Aston Villa's 33-year-old striker Peter Withe and Mark Hateley of AC Milan have been called up by England for the World Cup qualifier against Finland at Wembley today (Wednesday).

Withe gets a chance to extend his international career on the strength of a six-goal start to the season and an injury to Paul Mariner who pulled out of the England squad after straining a hamstring in training.

Hateley was the star of England's off-season South American tour squad, weakened by the absence of several regulars, and has added the Italian fans to his list of admirers with a swag of goals so far on his one-season contract.

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SCORES, LADDERS

ENGLISH LEAGUE

Chelsea 2 Watford 3, Coventry 1 Newcastle 1, Everton 2 Aston Villa 1, Ipswich 1 Queens Park Rangers 1, Leicester 1 Arsenal 4, Luton 1 Sheffield Wednesday 2, Manchester United 5 West Ham 1, Stoke 1 Southampton 3, Sunderland 2 Norwich 1, Tottenham 1 Liverpool 0 (played Friday), West Bromwich 0 Nottingham Forest 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	10	7	1	2	22	14	17
Tottenham	10	7	1	2	21	10	17
Sheffield Wed	10	5	3	2	19	14	18
Man Utd	10	5	3	2	19	14	17
Nottingham	10	5	3	2	19	14	17
Everton	10	5	3	2	20	15	17
Newcastle	10	4	4	2	13	16	14
West Ham	10	4	4	2	13	16	14
Sunderland	10	4	4	2	13	16	14
Chelsea	10	4	4	2	13	16	14
Southampton	10	4	4	2	13	16	14
Aston Villa	10	4	4	2	13	16	14
WBA	10	4	4	2	13	16	14
Ipswich	10	4	4	2	13	16	14
QPR	10	4	4	2	13	16	14
Liverpool	10	4	4	2	13	16	14
Norwich	10	4	4	2	13	16	14
Coventry	10	4	4	2	13	16	14
Luton	10	4	4	2	13	16	14
Leicester	10	4	4	2	13	16	14
Watford	10	4	4	2	13	16	14
Stoke	10	4	4	2	13	16	14

DIVISION TWO

Barnsley 1 Leeds 0, Birmingham 0 Blackburn 2, Carlisle 1 Crystal Palace 0, Charlton 1 Fulham 2, Huddersfield 2 Wimbledon 1, Notts County v Cardiff (played today), Oldham 3 Wolverhampton 2, Oxford 2 Brighton 1, Portsmouth 3, Grimsby 2, Southend United 0 Middlesbrough 3, Sarnsbury 1, Manchester City 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blackburn	10	7	3	0	15	7	24
Oldham	10	7	2	1	13	8	23
Birmingham	10	7	0	3	13	7	21
Brighton	10	6	5	0	14	3	23
Sunderland	10	6	5	0	14	3	23
Barnsley	10	6	5	0	14	3	23
Leeds	10	6	5	0	14	3	23
Grimsby	10	6	5	0	14	3	23
Fulham	10	6	5	0	14	3	23
Charlton	10	6	5	0	14	3	23
Wimbledon	10	6	5	0	14	3	23
Oldham	10	6	5	0	14	3	23
Carlisle	10	6	5	0	14	3	23
Sheffield Utd	10	6	5	0	14	3	23
Middlesbrough	10	6	5	0	14	3	23
Huddersfield	10	6	5	0	14	3	23
Wolves	10	6	5	0	14	3	23
Crystal Palace	10	6	5	0	14	3	23
Notts County	10	6	5	0	14	3	23
Cardiff	10	6	5	0	14	3	23

DIVISION THREE

Bolton 2 Bournemouth 1, Bradford 1 York 0, Bristol City 2 Gillingham 0, Burnley 1 Lincoln 2, Darby 3 Plymouth 1, Hull 3 Doncaster 2, Millwall 2 Brentford 0, Newport 2 Swansea 0, Orient 2 Cambridge 2, Preston 0 Reading 2, Rotherham 3 Bristol Rovers 3, Walsall 0 Wigan 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol Rovers	10	7	2	1	15	6	23
Millwall	10	7	1	2	21	10	22
York	10	6	5	0	16	10	22
Bradford	10	6	5	0	16	10	22
Rotherham	10	6	5	0	16	10	22
Gillingham	10	6	5	0	16	10	22
Bristol City	10	6	5	0	16	10	22
Doncaster	10	6	5	0	16	10	22
Hull	10	6	5	0	16	10	22
Brentford	10	6	5	0	16	10	22
Darby	10	6	5	0	16	10	22
Reading	10	6	5	0	16	10	22
Walsall	10	6	5	0	16	10	22
Preston	10	6	5	0	16	10	22
Bury	10	6	5	0	16	10	22
Wigan	10	6	5	0	16	10	22
Bolton	10	6	5	0	16	10	22
Swansea	10	6	5	0	16	10	22
Lincoln	10	6	5	0	16	10	22
Bournemouth	10	6	5	0	16	10	22
Plymouth	10	6	5	0	16	10	22
Cambridge	10	6	5	0	16	10	22

DIVISION FOUR

Aldershot 0 Bury 1, Crewe 3 Swindon 2, Darlington 4 Colchester 0, Exeter 1 Chester 1, Halifax 1, Chesterfield 5, Hartlepool 2, Hereford 2, Mansfield 1, Torquay 0, Peterborough 3, Stockport 1, Rochdale 1, Port Vale 2, Scunthorpe 1, Blackpool 1, Southend 2, Northampton 1, Wrexham 4, Tranmere 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hereford	10	7	2	1	17	5	23
Charterfield	10	7	2	1	19	9	23
Bury	10	7	2	1	19	9	23
Peterborough	10	6	3	1	15	6	21
Darlington	10	6	3	1	17	9	21
Blackpool	10	6	3	1	14	10	16
Colchester	10	6	3	1	12	11	15
Port Vale	10	6	3	1	12	11	15
Tranmere	10	5	5	0	15	15	15
Hartlepool	10	5	5	0	15	15	15
Crewe	10	5	5	0	15	15	15
Stockport	10	5	5	0	15	15	15
Southend	10	5	5	0	15	15	15
Chatter	10	5	5	0	15	15	15
Mansfield	10	5	5	0	15	15	15
Swindon	10	5	5	0	15	15	15
Wrexham	10	5	5	0	15	15	15
Torquay	10	5	5	0	15	15	15
Exeter	10	5	5	0	15	15	15
Aldershot	10	5	5	0	15	15	15
Rochdale	10	5	5	0	15	15	15
Halifax	10	5	5	0	15	15	15
Northampton	10	5	5	0	15	15	15

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

Celtic 3 Hibernian 0, Dumbarton 7 Morton 1, Dundee 1 Aberdeen 2, Hearts 3 Dundee United 0, St Mirren 0 Rangers 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	10	8	1	1	23	6	17
Dundee	10	6	3	1	18	8	13
Rangers	10	6	3	1	11	2	15
St Mirren	10	6	3	1	11	2	15
Dundee Utd	10	4	1	5	12	13	9
Hearts	10	4	0	6	15	17	9
Dumbarton	10	4	0	6	11	14	7
Hibernian	10	3	1	6	11	14	7
Morton	10	2	1	7	7	26	5

DIVISION ONE

Airdrie 4 Clyde 3, Forfar 0 Clydebank 0, Kilmarnock 3 Falkirk 1, Meadowbank 2 Hamilton 0, Motherwell 2 Brechin 0, Partick 7 East Fife 0, St Johnstone 2 Ayr 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Airdrie	10	8	0	2	20	9	16
Clydebank	10	6	1	3	17	8	13
Motherwell	10	6	1	3	15	9	13
Forfar	10	6	1	3	17	10	13
Ayr	10	6	1	3	17	10	13
East Fife	10	6	1	3	17	10	13
Bracklin	10	6	1	3	17	10	13
Hamilton	10	6	1	3	17	10	13
Falkirk	10	6	1	3	17	10	13
Clyde	10	6	1	3	17	10	13
Meadowbank	10	6	1	3	17	10	13
Partick	10	6	1	3	17	10	13
St Johnstone	10	6	1	3	17	10	13
Kilmarnock	10	6	1	3	17	10	13

DIVISION TWO

Aberdeen 1 Raith 1, Dunsfearn 4 Queens Park 0, East Stirling 0 Cowdenbeath 0, Montrose 1 Albion 1, Arbroath 2, Stranraer 2 Stirling 0.

Stenham	10	3	4	5	18	12	11
Queen's Park	10	4	1	5	19	9	11
Berwick	10	4	1	5	11	13	9
Albion	10	4	1	5	15	19	9
Raith	10	3	3	4	12	16	9
Cowdenbeath	10	4	0	6	15	15	8
Stranraer	10	4	0	5	11	17	7
Stirling	10	2	3	5	11	13	7
Arbroath	10	3	1	6	8	16	7
East Stirling	10	1	3	6	11	20	5

VICTORIAN PRESS AWARDS



South Melbourne Hellas stars Oscar Crino (left) and John Kanesoulis show off their trophies as Victorian NSL Player of the Year and Victorian under 21 Player of the Year respectively, before last Sunday's big finals game against Croatia at Olympic Park. Pictures: LES SHORROCK

BILL FLEMING MEDAL

31 — Smith (Box Hill)
30 — Moore (Morwell)
21 — Lazopoulos (V. Suburbs)
12 — Tuffield (Fawkner)
11 — Culina (St. Albans)
Quigley (Northcote)
10 — Milla (Polonia)
9 — House (Knox), White-side (Morwell)
7 — MacLean (Morwell), Verniers (Wilhelmina)
6 — Przybyla (Polonia)
5 — I. Roodhouse (Box Hill), Angele (Fawkner), Storton (Morwell)
4 — Boyle (Fawkner)
2 — Bozakis (Northcote), Clarke (Morwell)
1 — Coyle (W. Suburbs) Ketsakidis (Northcote)

COACH OF THE YEAR

30. Brian Garvey (Heidelberg), 15 Len McKendry (Hellas), 11 John Margaritis (Juventus), 8 Jimmy Dunne (Morwell Falcons), 3 Tony Vrzina (Croatia), 2 Tommy Traynor (George Cross), Billy Murray (Box Hill).

REFEREE OF THE YEAR

23. Stewart Mellings, 20 Chris Bambridge, 8 Dennis Vourasas, 7 Sam Zoumas, 4 Jim Fearn, 1 Jim Fokianos, Bernie Ujohn, John Stojkovic, Evan Venios.

UNDER 21 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

24. John Kanesoulis (Hellas), 15. Robert Markovac (Croatia), 11. Angie Postecoglou (Hellas), 6. Steve Tasios (Heidelberg), 3. Aki Kozamichalis (Springvale), Steve Gojovic (Croatia), Mike Petersen (Heidelberg), 1. Greg House (Knox City)

NSL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

15. Oscar Crino (Hellas), 12. Josip Blazic (Croatia), 11. Jeff Oliver (Heidelberg), 8. Paul Wade (Green Gully), 6. Gary McDowell (Footscray U.S.T.), 5. Robbie Dunn (Macedonia), 2. Ken Murphy (Hellas), Charlie Yankos (Heidelberg), 1. Doug Brown (Hellas), Tom Cumming (Croatia)

VICTORIAN TEAM OF THE YEAR

Jeff OLIVER			
Ian McKIE	Charlie YANKOS	Steve BLAIR	Alan DAVIDSON
Josip BISKIC	Gary McDOWELL	Oscar CRINO	
Tommy CUMMING	Doug BROWN	Charlie EGAN	

Subs: Paul Wade, Carl Halford.

Jim McRobert Ward and Nelson out, so McRobert gets prize

Jimmy McRobert of Moreland is the winner of the Victorian Metro First Division best and fairest award, not Melbourne striker Danny Ward, as reported in last week's "Soccer Action".

Ward was sent off while playing against Altona City this year and second placegetter in the First Division award, Robbie Nelson of North Dandenong, was sent off against Springvale City.

That elevated previously third-placed McRobert to first as players sent off are ineligible for the award which is decided by referees' votes on a 3-2-1 basis for each league game.

McRobert played for Hamilton Academicals in Scotland before coming to Australia in the early 1970's. He played for Brunswick Juventus and Sunshine City and joined Moreland two seasons ago.

Giffin out, Manly top club

By ALEX VESIC

Jimmy Giffin, one of the longest-serving administrators at Bankstown, has left the club after 15 years service.

His views appeared to clash with those of the incoming committee, leaving him no choice but to stand down.

His son, Steve Giffin, Bankstown's goalkeeper, is in a quandary over his future with the club.

Steve Blackburn and Wayne Coates have also shown a desire to go to another club while it is not known what will happen with Bankstown's latest find, Irec Genc.

For Jimmy Giffin, the long-serving and loyal club member, also an under 13 NSW State team manager, it was time to reflect on what might have happened had the local council come to the "party" when needed.

Manly despite its demise in the closing stages of this year's NSW Championship is still satisfied with its progress. Winning the club championship made up for the losses in Third and Second grade grand finals.

Radio Rentals back award

Radio Rentals are to continue their association with the soccer press awards in New South Wales.

Last year the company gave away a color TV to the NSW best NSL player, Phil O'Connor. This year it will be a Hi-Fi twin stereo cassette and a VCR the next year.

Long-time supporters of the Blacktown Soccer Club, Radio Rentals have shown total commitment to soccer with this perpetual award for the NSW Player of the Year.

Press presentations will be held at the Journalists Club in Chalmers Street on October 26.

THUMBS UP FOR CRINO, SMITH

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

Oscar Crino of South Melbourne Hellas and Steve Smith of Box Hill capped memorable seasons in the National Conference and Victorian State League respectively by winning prestigious awards at the annual Bill Fleming Medal presentation night at the City and Overseas Club in Melbourne last Friday.

Crino was named Victorian NSL Player of the Year while Smith, who was "Soccer Action's" State League Player of the Year, added the Fleming Medal to his list of impressive credits this season. Smith still is vying with Polonia striker Janusz Przybyla for our VSF Travel Club State League Top Scorer's award (see story page 11).

Crino wasn't present on the night so team mate Charlie Egan accepted the Player of the Year trophy on his behalf.

The award came after a season in which Crino has re-emerged as an Australian international of impressive stature. He started with the national youth team during the 1981 World Youth Cup in Australia and after the senior national team no longer could qualify for the 1982 World Cup finals in Spain, Crino and most of the 1981 young 'Roos were drafted into the senior national team for the remaining World Cup qualifying games.

But Crino has had to wait until this year to regain senior Soccer status. He played with the national "B" team in the World Series tournament earlier this season and last

Friday was named by national coach Frank Ark in the Socceroo squad which will go on tour of China and Europe next month.

It's Crino's tremendous on-the-ball ability which clearly caught the eye of most members of the Victorian branch of the Australian Soccer Press Association which hosts the Fleming Medal night. All awards were voted on by financial members of the Victorian branch of ASPA.

Smith won this year's Fleming Medal by one vote from Morwell Falcons' classy goalscoring midfielder Steve Moore, who won "Soccer Action's" 1983 State League Player of the Year award while playing for Northcote City. Flying Western Suburbs winger Bill Lazopoulos was third.

Brian Garvey of Heidelberg won the award for Victorian Coach of the Year. In his acceptance speech, Garvey praised former Northcote player Gary Cutler who was instrumental in bringing Garvey to Australia. The award highlighted an outstanding first season in Australia soccer for the Heidelberg supremo.

The Referee of the Year award was won by Stuart Mellings. Chris Bambridge, who has won the award six times, accepted the trophy on behalf of Mellings who is representing Australia on the panel of referees in charge of the Merlion Cup in Singapore.

To top off a great night for Hellas, promising midfielder John Kanesoulis was voted Victorian under 21 Player of the Year. Robert Markovac of Melbourne was second while Kanesoulis's team mate, Angie Postecoglou, was third.

The guest of honor, NSL secretary-manager Stefan Kamasz, was presented with a desk set after giving a lengthy speech on the pros and cons of the NSL format this year.



Box Hill's ace striker Steve Smith proudly displays the 1984 Bill Fleming Medal.

Healy of Knox wins Weinstein

The winner of the Weinstein Medal for the Victorian junior player of the year is David Healy of Knox City.

The criteria for the award is that he must be in the last junior year under 16.

The junior player of the year must have given consistent playing services to his club, showing enthusiasm, leadership and the potential to represent both State and Country and is willing to continue in the game.

David joined Bayswater (now Knox City) at the age of six and has been with the club ever since. He has played games for the senior team of Knox City in the State League.

He has represented Victoria in age groups under 13s through to under 16s.

He was the captain of the Victorian under 16s who played in Sydney recently. While in the under 15 State team he was selected to represent Australia against New Zealand.

There is no doubt that in the coming years David will represent Victoria and Australia at senior level if he continues to show the skills and leadership that he has demonstrated in his early years.

The Weinstein Medal carries with it a scholarship of \$100. The presentation of the Weinstein Medal will be made during the annual general meeting of the Victorian Soccer Federation which is due to be held on Thursday November 15 in the Yarra Room, Olympic Park, Swan Street, Melbourne.



Fawkner coach Gus Macleod, on behalf of Schipano Furnishers, presents Steve Smith with a \$1000 voucher as "Soccer Action's" 1984 State League player of the Year.



Chris Bambridge (left) accepts the Referee of the Year award on behalf of winner Stuart Mellings. The presenter is Tony Schievell of Prima, the sponsor of the award.



"Soccer Action" editor Laurie Schwab (right) presents Heidelberg's Brian Garvey with his award as Victorian Coach of the Year.

Three goalkeepers available

Three top-class goalkeepers from the U.K. want to play in Australia.

Graham Moseley, who played for Brighton in the 1983 F.A. Cup final against Tottenham Hotspur, has been freed after seven years service. Moseley has played for England youths and at under-23 level. Clubs interested can write to him at 18 Mallory Road, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 6TD, England. Moseley can be contacted by phone on (0273) 56 3340.

Richard Robinson, 18, was with Crystal Palace as a schoolboy and was apprenticed

to Swindon town. He's played most of his soccer in the Football Combination League and has been in the Wales youth squad. He can be contacted at Rhyd, Rhosbodrual, Caernarfon, Glynedd, Wales. His phone numbers are (0286) 3399 or (0286) 88 1284. Colin Blackley, 18, has been freed by Dundee due to the

Scottish club's financial problems. Blackley played with Celtic Boys Club and has represented Scotland at schoolboy level (four times) and at youth level (two caps). He signed professional forms with Dundee in 1983. Clubs interested can contact his uncle, Harry Blackley, at 5 Cobden Street, Highton 3216, Victoria.

SEROVSKI VOTED NO. 1

John Serovski has won Altona Gate's best and fairest award.

Runner-up was Bobby Golevski and third was Chris Talevski. Fred Beller was top scorer with 13 and Tom Markovski won the reserves best and fairest award, from Ken Barbakos and Zlate Trajceviski. Serovski was made a life member of the club.

Davidson hurt, Gomez scores, Wade shines



Alan Davidson — collapsed in Hobart.

TASMANIA D AUSTRALIA
2 (Gomez 35, Senkalski 89) at Grove Road, Glenorchy (Tas). Wednesday. Att: 1500. Ref: J. Johnston.

TASMANIA: Craven — Driessen, Monagle, Di Martino, Hay (Sherman 88). — Davidson, B. Charlton, Kannegiesser, S. Nunn, Parker, Sawdon (Pace 78).

AUSTRALIA: Laumets — Gomez (Belic 46), J. O'Shea, Cannell — Sevar, Senkalski, Wade, Crino, Davidson (Watson 60th), Farina, Egan (Arnold 46).

Socceroo star Alan Davidson of South Melbourne Hellas, collapsed and partially swallowed his tongue during his exhibition match in Hobart last Wednesday.

Team-mate Graham Arnold of Sydney Croatia immediately came to Davidson's aid to enable him to breathe again.

"I had headed two long

clearances from the Tasmanian goalkeeper, and suddenly my knees buckled and I lost consciousness," Davidson said.

He collapsed back in April, during a game against Sydney Hakoah, and said in hospital afterwards that he had been struck from behind.

Australia dominated the opening half but poor finishing saw the Socceroos with only one goal on the board at the interval.

The Tasmanians seemed in awe of their opponents in the first half and they were reduced to the role of onlookers as the Socceroos produced a polished display of possession soccer which resulted in slick build-ups and many chances.

Chance

Australia's first chance came in the 9th minute when Stuart Cannell put Charlie Egan through with a perfectly timed pass but he fired well over the bar.

Three minutes later, a superb move involving Oscar Crino, Egan and Frank Farina carved open the home defence but Farina's cross was cleared.

Egan and Farina were switching constantly and dragging their markers all over the place and their pace was devastating. Crino, the man with the lean and hungry look, was outstanding and the Socceroos were getting two and even three players queuing up for shots but the finish was lacking.

Goal

Egan found himself clear in the 16th minute but Craven made a brave save at the striker's feet. Shortly afterwards, Davidson received a Crino pass wide on the left, beat Charlton, and sent in a vicious shot that just cleared the bar.

Tasmania's only chance of the half fell to Peter Sawdon in the 27th minute. He robbed Cannell of the ball and strode towards goal but the shot was tame and directed straight at Peter Laumets.

The opening goal came following a corner in the 35th minute. The ball was flicked over the advancing Tasmanian defence and Gerardo Gomez found himself with only Craven to beat. He kept his head, rounded the goalkeeper and walked the ball into the net.

Gomez almost scored a second with a perfectly placed header five minutes before half-time but Craven clawed the ball out of the top corner with a magnificent save that had even the Socceroos applauding.

The loss of Alan Davidson on the hour put a dampener on the game and Australia became a mere shadow of the side that had run Tasmania ragged in the first half.

Ian Parker, who didn't get a look-in in the first 45 minutes, managed to get two good chances. A defender just cleared the ball off Parker's toe on the first occasion and the Tasmanian volleyed just over the bar on the second.

The second goal came right at the end when a right-wing cross found Joe Senkalski unmarked at the far post and he could have parked his car before slotting the ball home.

Atrocious weather conditions — rain and howling gales — limited the attendance while the injury to Davidson cast a pall over the latter half-an-hour of the match.

Arok

"It was a very interesting game and much harder than we expected," said Frank Arok. "I think there is some class and value in that Tasmanian team and we had a very hard fight on our hands and we really were surprised."

In regard to Australia's poor finishing, Arok said: "It was very, very windy and you can't control the second-last touch and that is vitally important for good finishing. And it was the first time that the team had played together. They worked very hard but they lacked a bit of co-ordination which is important for a good game."



Stuart Cannell of Green Gully — played stopper for Socceroos.



Joe Senkalski — scored against Tasmania.

dination which is important for a good game."

Arok agreed that the loss of Davidson affected the Socceroos.

"His loss probably did affect the team. Everyone is very fond of him and it was an unfortunate situation. I don't know what happened but, thank God, he's all right and it's nothing serious."

One of Australia's most impressive players was midfielder Paul Wade of Green Gully.

Adelaide Juve beats Fawkner

Eight Fawkner junior teams and a women's team returned last Monday after a memorable stay in South Australia as guests of Adelaide City Juventus.

Fawkner and Juventus were competing for the Travelodge Cup and it was the South Australians who emerged victorious with five wins, two draws and two losses from the nine-match series.

Fawkner junior spokesman Adrian Ferrante praised the hospitality of the Juventus club.

"It was a great weekend and on behalf of

everyone at Fawkner I want to thank Adelaide Juventus for the reception they gave us and for looking after us so well," said Ferrante.

"Everyone at Fawkner is looking forward to 1985 when it will be our turn to host Adelaide Juventus juniors and we can repay the tremendous hospitality shown to us by the South Australian club."

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FORZA JUVE!

LIVERPOOL V. BENFICA IS EURO DRAWCARD

By PAUL MOON

The Liverpool v. Benfica clash stands out as the pick of the European Champion's Cup second round draw.

These are the only two former winners of the trophy engaged in this year's event and, despite neither having produced consistent form during the current campaign, they are capable of producing excellent football.

Though likelier to prevail, the Merseysiders' 5-1 triumph of last season will probably not be repeated.

Favorite Juventus surely will be too strong for Zurich Grasshoppers, but the Swiss are qualified to provide a rigorous workout before the serious business begins next year.

The most striking feature of the Cup is the absence of Europe's traditional giants, there being no Bayern, Ajax, Real Madrid, Barcelona or AC Milan to set pulses racing.

A reflection of this is the fact that Bordeaux, a club with virtually no European tradition, has been installed as third favorite by London's bookmakers.

The French champion attracts punters' money largely through the inclusion of European Championship stars Patrick Batistoni, Alain Giresse, Jean Tigana, Bernard Lacombe and Fernando Chalana.

The 1983-84 semi finalist, Dinamo Bucharest, will test just how viable a contender Bordeaux is.

Three of the other ties promise competitive, though hardly heart-stopping encounters, while Panathinaikos and Sparta Prague should advance comfortably at the expense of the two remaining minnows, Linfield and Lyngby respectively.

The European Cup Winners' Cup draw is also a mixed bag.

Instead of meeting Northampton Town in a English Fourth Division fixture, as originally scheduled, Wrexham will be playing last season's Champions' Cup runner up AS Roma in the Eternal City's Olympic Stadium.

Despite having provided the sensation of round one by knocking out Porto, beaten finalist five months earlier, Wrexham is more likely to be involved in a Roman orgy than a romantic ending.

The competition's other aristocrat, Bayern Munich, will find Bulgaria's Trakia Plovdiv to be a tough battle and that is vitally important for good finishing. And it was the first time that the team had played together. They worked very hard but they lacked a bit of co-ordination which is important for a good game."

The easiest task is reserved for Dinamo Moscow, for little Hamrun Spartans are out of their depth at this stage.

Having enhanced France's ever-growing reputation further by humiliating Barcelona during round one, Metz must be eager to consolidate it at the expense of experienced Dinamo Dresden. It will not be an easy task.

Everton, which has a wretched overall record in Europe, must produce its best form if it is to overcome Inter Bratislava, a competent but far from outstanding combination.

The experience of Wisla Krakow and Glasgow Celtic will give them a slight edge over Fortuna Sittard and Rapid Vienna, while Larissa and Servette appear very evenly matched.

The UEFA Cup pairings include a number of promising ties, with the encounter between the two clubs that normally wear violet jerseys, Anderlecht and Fiorentina, the most intriguing.

CHAMPIONS' CUP

Liverpool (England) v. Benfica (Portugal). Bordeaux (France) v. Dinamo Bucharest (Romania).

Juventus (Italy) v. Zurich Grasshoppers (Switzerland).

Dinamo Berlin (East Germany) v. Austria Vienna (Austria).

Levski Spartak (Bulgaria) v. Dnepropetrovsk (USSR).

Panathinaikos (Greece) v. Linfield (Northern Ireland). Sparta Prague (Czechoslovakia) v. Lyngby (Denmark). IFK Gothenburg (Sweden) v. Beveren (Belgium).

CUP-WINNERS' CUP

Wrexham (Wales) v. AS Roma (Italy). Metz (France) v. Dinamo Berlin (East Germany).

Everton (England) v. Inter Bratislava (Czechoslovakia).

Fortuna Sittard (Holland) v. Wisla Krakow (Poland).

Dinamo Moscow (USSR) v. Hamrun Spartans (Malta).

Bayern Munich (West Germany) v. Trakia Plovdiv (Bulgaria).

Glasgow Celtic (Scotland) v. Rapid Vienna (Austria).

Servette Geneva (Switzerland) v. Larissa (Greece).

UEFA CUP (Outstanding ties)

Tottenham Hotspur (England) v. FC Bruges (Belgium).

Anderlecht (Belgium) v. Fiorentina (Italy).

Manchester United (England) v. PSV Eindhoven (Holland).

Glasgow Rangers (Scotland) v. Internazionale Milan (Italy).

Queen's Park Rangers (England) v. Partizan Belgrade (Yugoslavia).

Standard Liege (Belgium) v. Cologne (West Germany).

Dinamo Minsk (USSR) v. Sporting Lisbon (Portugal).

Bohemians (Czechoslovakia) v. Ajax Amsterdam (Holland).

Dundee United (Scotland) v. Linz (Austria).

CSKA Sofia (Bulgaria) v. SV Hamburg (West Germany).

All games to be played on the mornings of October 25 and November 8, Australian time.



Picture by GRAHAM TILLEY

• Mornington was formed in 1964 after a meeting between Gary Woods, Bob Barnes and Del Lines. The club first entered senior competition in 1965 and in 1966, Mornington was accepted into the Fourth Division of the Metropolitan Leagues.

The club's early years were hard and Mornington struggled to really make a name for itself in the Metro Leagues. In 1976, Del Lines, Eddie Ward and Nick Dellaportis decided to form juniors at Mornington. Three teams were formed in the first year but the junior set-up mushroomed, so much so that the club now is represented at every junior level from under-7's to under-16's.

It also was in 1975 that Mornington moved to its present headquarters at Sir Dallas Brooks Park. Former Ringwood Wilhelmina great Nick van Egmond was appointed first team coach in 1979 and Mornington's rise started. Throughout the 1980's to date, with Rob Canley as president, Mornington has achieved great success both on and off the field.

Mornington won promotion to Metro Division Three in 1982 and in 1983, under the expert guidance of former George Cross star Tommy Robertson, the club won promotion to Division Two.

With Robertson as coach once more, and Archie Ayre as team manager, Mornington crushed all opposition to

comfortably take out this year's Second Division championship. And 1984 presented the club with a great double as the reserves, coached by Dave Robson, also won the championship.

Apart from president Rob Canley, others who have contributed greatly to Mornington's recent success are Nick Dellaportis (vice president), Geoff Manlove, Jim Milway, Mrs Trish Milway and Mrs Babs Robson, who has been a tireless worker for the club. Now, Mornington is eyeing the First Division championship in 1985 — and a berth in State League, for the first time in the club's history.

The men who made Mornington mighty in 1984. Back row: Tommy Robertson (coach), Paul Cameron, Mark Congdon, Les Strrup, Robbie Stewart (captain), Peter Clark, Les Thomson, Brian Paulding, Archie Ayre (team manager). Front row: John Cameron, Andy Gully, Goren Runkle, Colin Mitchell, David Pye, Chris Vell, Jimmy Stuart. Missing: Andy Miller.

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